

Chapter 3

Text Completions

In This Chapter...

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Text Completions

Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

1. In Europe, football, otherwise known as soccer, is the most popular sport by several orders of magnitude, whereas in the United States of America, fandom is fairly evenly _____ among a few different sports.

regarded
inspired
enjoyed
measured
apportioned

2. The astrophysicist argues that our books and films about interstellar space travel are a form of mass _____, and that only a miracle on a scale heretofore unseen could allow a human being to voyage to even the closest star in another solar system.

innovation
delusion
dementia
catastrophe
hysteria

3. Peculiarly enough, Shakespeare has been often (i) _____ as the best English language playwright, and often (ii) _____ as a man lacking the education to write those plays.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
crowned	demonized
stigmatized	dismissed
castigated	deified

4. While far from the bane that some scholars have declared them to be, (i) _____ versions of novels and essays do indeed excise essential elements; students would have to supplement their reading with (ii) _____ sources to fully understand the intent of the original.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

annotated	complementary
abridged	complimentary
antedated	compelling

5. Even the _____ and alluring charms of Paris were not sufficient to cure the young expatriate of his yearning for the simple and quaint charms of his rural American home.

lascivious
sophisticated
foreign
alien
alienating

6. The fact that the average life expectancy ten thousand years ago was so much shorter than it is now is often (i) _____ as evidence supporting the notion that the world always improves with time. However, if you (ii) _____ for the fact that most children in that epoch died in childbirth, life expectancy for those who survived birth was nearly the same then as it is now.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

cited	prepare
disregarded	read
embodied	correct

7. On an aptitude test in 1986, an argument posited that the possibility of conducting banking transactions from home was as likely as flying cars, an argument that sounds _____ today, when such transactions are commonplace.

prescient
preternatural
preordained
preposterous
pithy

8. The widespread tendency to _____ retired political leaders who were successful stems from an arguably primal human need to venerate both men and gods.

castigate
remember
lionize
appreciate
indemnify

9. Academic work can be as taxing as manual labor. The misconception that (i) _____ work strains the mind less than physical work strains the body has been proven wrong by scientific investigation as well as by anecdotal evidence. It is simply not true that the (ii) _____ musings of a mathematician are necessarily easier than the physical labor of, say, a carpenter.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
cerebral	quotidian
intense	extraordinary
actuarial	intellectual

10. Known for her humorous but acerbic wit, the fashion doyenne commented, in her usual, simultaneously (i) _____ and (ii) _____ manner, that in Los Angeles, “the women dressed like men and the men dressed like boys.”

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
slandorous	considerate
amusing	hysterical
serious	caustic

11. Every generation is accused of slacking by the preceding ones, before in turn calling its own progeny lackadaisical; such is the _____ of life.

vicissitude
irony
circle
serendipity
comedy

12. Although retired, the professor takes pains to remain _____ the latest developments in her field.

akimbo to
abreast of

obtuse to
subservient to
askance to

13. She was not the only (i) _____ of the long-proposed legislation, but she was the (ii) _____ who finally got the bill onto the legislative agenda.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

apologist	catalyst
critic	mercenary
proponent	lackey

14. Jeremy was not one to (i) _____ his success, let alone talk much at all, so his family was shocked when they finally discovered that their (ii) _____ son was a Rhodes Scholar.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

demarcate	improvident
whitewash	taciturn
trumpet	dissolute

15. In his youth, Oscar Wilde catapulted to sudden fame both because of and despite his (i) _____ witticisms; however, the cutting remarks that won him renown also led to his financial and physical ruin, and he died (ii) _____ and sickly in a shabby Parisian hotel.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

innovative	pallid
acerbic	aghast
inimical	impecunious

16. Hursthouse, (i) _____ virtue ethicists in general, argues that ethics is properly neither situational nor utilitarian and that one ought to seek out virtue and emulate it rather than base one's judgments on subjective concerns or a (ii) _____ weighing of pain and pleasure likely to result from a given action; critics, of course, tend to (iii) _____ that Hursthouse and other virtue ethicists who seek to define virtue merely seek to enshrine their own prejudices under the guise of theory.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

enigmatic to	pragmatic	posit
breaking away from	quixotic	deny
emblematic of	grandiloquent	cajole

17. The film was (i) _____ (ii) _____ by critics; rightfully, not a single reviewer had any positive thing to say about it.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

warily	lauded
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mendaciously	panned
roundly	venerated

18. The distinction between architecture and the engineering professions that it resembles is that the former must consider (i) _____ as well as functionality, as clients often base their decisions more on the beauty of the project than its practicality.

insouciance
utility
price
aesthetics
profundity

19. Once considered able to only _____ emulate actions without understanding the action's deeper significance, bearded dragons have recently been observed copying non-instinctive actions of other bearded dragons, prompting scientists to question whether other reptiles might also be capable of genuine imitation.

attentively
insensibly
listlessly
actively
consciously

20. December's earthquake was but a _____ to a terrible year for a small island nation recently wracked by civil strife and devastating tropical storms.

prologue
catharsis
coda
homily
rampage

21. Although they had never met, the two writers felt they were of one mind, each (i) _____ anticipating the contents of the other's letters; never

had two intellectuals been more (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

ominously	providential
anachronistically	shrewd
presciently	simpatico

22. After many years of war and bloodshed, some became _____ suffering, casting a blind eye to scenes of misery around them.

inured to
exempted from
dominant over
effusive towards
maudlin over

23. After a brief initial struggle over power, the group elected a leader and _____ into a surprisingly harmonious team.

fractured
syncopated
coalesced
agglomerated
amortized

24. The highly anticipated finale of the TV series was divisive: newcomers to the show found the fast-paced action enjoyable while long-time fans _____ the storyline unfinished.

appreciated
generated
examined
considered
secured

25. The author was far from (i) _____ the novel. While most of the book was already written, he knew that it would take innumerable hours to review and edit. This was going to be (ii) _____, not only because of the book's length, but also because of the convoluted plot.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

finishing	hardy
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inscribing	trying
rejecting	redundant

26. During his sales pitch, the car salesman attempted to _____ the young couple into purchasing the luxury automobile, despite the pair's obvious indifference to his flattery.

support
inveigle
deliberate
marginalize
hector

27. Just as reminiscences of a childhood spent in rural Mexico color the poet's work, so too does the experience of war _____ her poetry.

inform
mimic
invalidate
defer
presage

28. The peanut is often (i) _____ referred to as a nut; (ii) _____ to such people, it is actually a legume.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
archaically	unbeknownst
erroneously	abhorrent
deftly	consanguineous

29. The (i) _____ child approached the diving board; (ii) _____ water in the first place, he found the prospect of jumping into it from some height even more frightening.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
tremulous	beguiled by
coltish	chary of

cumbersome	repulsed by
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30. Soldier ants are wingless, sterile females that guard the colony and supply it with food, thus acting as both (i) _____ and laborers as the (ii) _____ queen produces enough (iii) _____ to continually populate the colony.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
sentries	fecund	forebears
sages	efficacious	progeny
sycophants	imperious	harbingers

31. The Paris Commune was a government that ruled France for about two months in 1871; despite its (i) _____ reign, it was at the time (ii) _____ as a sign of the emergence of a powerful working class.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

equivocal	discounted
ephemeral	recanted
omnipotent	heralded

32. While taller wind turbines would allow more areas of the country to provide cost-effective alternative energy, there are several (i) _____ that engineers are currently facing while trying to build such turbines. Taller towers necessitate (ii) _____ bases, requiring the current width to be nearly doubled. This leads to (iii) _____ issue: these wider sections would be too large to travel on modern highways, meaning that the taller turbines would need to be constructed at the location where they are to eventually stand.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

flaws	equitable	a concomitant
supplements	unobtrusive	a theoretical
complications	stouter	an objective

33. During the prolonged and elaborate farewell tour, no one thought the plaudits heaped upon him were _____, since his heroics were well documented and admired by all.

obsequious
derivative
deserved
vestigial
antiquated

34. He has such a pleasingly (i) _____ personality that it's hard to be bothered by the (ii) _____ in his past.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

sanguine	peccadilloes
high-handed	incendiaries
evanescent	achievements

35. The Tasmanian devil is not considered (i) _____ , since only a few of its confrontations with humans have been (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
adverse	premature
menacing	quixotic
unpredictable	unprovoked

36. The (i) _____ young employee was soon (ii) _____ for making a serious mistake that cost the company thousands of dollars.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
banal	enamored
sagacious	castigated
verdant	deposed

37. The beauty pageant contestant told the judges she wanted world peace, but her suggestion to bring about world peace was _____— apparently, she naïvely thinks everyone could just be told to “love one another” and all the world’s disagreements would fade away.

convoluted
facile
impeccable
amicable
dulcet

38. In front of her parents, adults euphemistically referred to the overly talkative young girl as precocious, though they privately found her to be _____ .

garrulous
skittish
solicitous
endearing

naïve

39. While the author's first collection of short stories presented a (i) _____ hodgepodge of voices, the second collection presents a remarkably (ii) _____ set of tales presented by a (iii) _____ narrator.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
motley	insightful	lonely
variable	even	disingenuous
homogeneous	facetious	sole

40. In contrast to environmental economics, an older field that concerns itself with the monetary valuation of natural resources, the emergent field of ecological economics positions the human economy as a subsystem of natural ecologies, thus _____ environmental economists' subordination of the natural world.

circumscribing
corroborating
refuting
ameliorating
reversing

41. Today's highly partisan political environment is far from _____ ; not so long ago, ideological opponents were still able to set aside differences and work across party lines, as is typically necessary to pass productive legislation.

civil
immutable
polemical
efficacious
enjoyable

42. The virtual (i) _____ of John F. Kennedy focuses on his presidential achievements, legend, and assassination; similarly, during his candidacy, verbal and written (ii) _____ were laid at the altar of his wartime exploits.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
deification	calumnies
excoriation	garlands
praise	obloquies

43. For centuries, commercial portrait painters have employed a bifurcated aesthetic: like other artists, they strive to represent the truth that gives their works life, but commerce dictates that they simultaneously employ subtle

_____ that make the likeness more attractive than the sitter.

palettes
aesthetics
artifacts
artifices
sentiments

44. Dogmatic professors often alienate their classes because they fail to realize that their _____ enervates rather than inspires students.

wisdom
pedantry
parsimony
pulchritude
wit

45. General McClellan focused so intently on the petty, logistical details of the upcoming campaign that Lincoln felt that said attention to _____ , however necessary, had superseded more lofty goals.

irrelevancies
tactics
minutiae
strategy
peccadilloes

46. Jimmy Stewart, the actor, spoke with an (i) _____ that (ii) _____ audiences; through hesitancy and understatement, he was at least as captivating as his flamboyant peers.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

awkward lisp	enthralled
overwhelming passion	repelled
appealing shyness	amused

47. Given the (i) _____ of the book, the critical reception was surprisingly (ii) _____ ; reviewers who usually pounce on the slightest orthodoxy met the text with unabashed approbation.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

ingenuity	tepid
tortuousness	laudatory

conventionality	deprecating
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48. Ironically, the commentator who so roundly condemned personal (i) _____ was (ii) _____ to the point of bankruptcy—he himself was a reflection of an aspect of the ills that, in other areas, he railed against.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
indolence	profligate
probity	antediluvian
dissipation	ascetic

49. For all the student's meticulous preparation, he received _____ grade on his final exam.

a passable
a deplorable
an exacting
a surprising
an outstanding

50. Just as ancient Greek culture in some ways provided the Romans with a model, the remnants of Roman culture _____ the development of medieval European mores.

duplicated
curbed
foresaw
informed
hindered

51. As an evolutionary adaptation, cats have developed a mechanism whereby their heads are measuring devices, as their bodies can fit through any space that their heads can, and this physiology is a safeguard that _____ their success as a species.

reproduces
ensures
enhances
mitigates
inundates

52. Far from the (i) _____ novice that he made himself out to be, the new teacher was in fact quite (ii) _____ : within a week of arrival, he understood the school's byzantine power structures and was using the dysfunctional administration to his advantage.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

cunning	canny
guileless	unseemly
capricious	desultory

53. Since there are significant (i) _____ in the flawed methodologies of the studies upon which it is based, the meta-analysis is anything but (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
irregularities	unreliable
subtleties	intelligible
consistencies	credible

54. Crane Brinton argued that the middle phases of revolutions are especially (i) _____ because the unleashed force of social momentum transfers power inexorably from more stable (if oppressive) forces to less temperate ones. Yet, he then goes on to say that the excesses (ii) _____ and a more peaceful period ensues.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

brusque	metastasize
berserk	grow
pacific	recede

55. The Donner party made a _____ choice to try to cross the Sierra Nevada too late in the season, and they paid dearly for that dangerous decision.

prudent
parlous
suicidal
semiotic
providential

56. The engineer is not interested in developing products to meet market needs; her work is known for its technical brilliance much more than for its _____ potential.

scientific
ergonomic
commercial
academic
revolutionary

57. Frederick the Great of Prussia was known for his (i) _____ under fire during his military victories; however, when confronting issues of domestic policy, this equilibrium sometimes failed him. He was often (ii) _____ with his ministers, who never knew when they might be subjected to one of his tirades.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

intrepidity	fascist
cruelty	mercurial
sangfroid	vainglorious

58. In her opening remarks, the school's director empathized with the apparent (i) _____ of taking disciplinary action in the classroom; on the one hand, teachers can ill-afford to (ii) _____ indisputably disruptive behaviors, while on the other, overly strict administration can actually foster such behaviors.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

necessity	fabricate
entreaty	brook
paradox	mitigate

59. The library wing was first conceived merely as (i) _____ to address the problem of book overstock until a more permanent solution could be found. Ironically, it was the flimsy nature of the wing itself that attracted such architectural interest and ultimately led to its canonization as a (ii) _____ of its kind. Now a statute exists to protect this originally transient structure in (iii) _____.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

a stopgap	paragon	consecration
an ornament	nadir	chronology
a modicum	catalyst	perpetuity

60. Though the negotiation was initially expected to proceed smoothly, it soon became apparent that any semblance of (i) _____ between the parties was disingenuous or, at best, a superficial adherence to certain (ii) _____.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

duplicity	mores
amity	truisms
solace	plaudits

61. Unable to eschew her well-known tendency toward (i) _____, the speaker effectively turned a five-minute policy brief into an hour-long (ii) _____ on the history of the region.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
terseness	distension
precision	expatiation
elaboration	repertory

62. The senator's _____ upbringing seemingly had no effect on his policy: he vociferously championed economic, political, and even cultural isolationism.

cosmopolitan
bucolic
liberal
tendentious
opulent

63. The plan, if it can be called that, has been more of (i) _____ vision than a concrete proposal; like many similarly (ii) _____ ideas, it is unlikely to ever come to fruition.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
an oppositional	quixotic
a protean	pragmatic
a martial	unorthodox

64. It was a fact that the region was both quiet and rural, but what the typically impoverished residents considered (i) _____ refuge was considered by the well-heeled visitors to be an intolerable (ii) _____ , and its residents' lifestyles unpleasantly (iii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
a parochial	asylum	tony
an arcadian	utopia	spartan
a squalid	hinterland	rational

65. Though many readers assumed that the (i) _____ depicted in her stories reflected the author's own lifestyle, in reality she was more prudish than (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
dissent	licentious
propriety	moralizing

debauchery	perspicacious
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66. The club had been all male up until 1963, when it began to admit women, who now make up more of the membership; hence, the female club president was both annoyed and amused at an elderly male member's (i) _____ suggestion that women be shuffled off to (ii) _____ organization where they could play bridge and drink tea without having to worry about serious issues.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
regressive	an incendiary
rustic	an auxiliary
prudish	a hierarchical

67. Although this historical figure had been (i) _____ politician and a brilliant inventor, the professor found herself unable to (ii) _____ the interest of her students in the career of a man with such outdated views.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
an insipid	whet
a deft	accrue
an effete	tout

68. The comedian's _____ wit has long been the cause of the polarized sentiments she evokes in her audience; some adore her caustic sense of humor, while others abhor it.

ample
acerbic
anachronistic
abstruse
astounding

69. Contrary to the assumptions that many Westerners hold about mindfulness practices, meditation is often anything but _____ ; while using various methods to calm the mind, meditators frequently experience intense periods of restlessness and doubt.

beneficial

mystical
orthodox
benign
halcyon

70. Faced with _____ job market, many young people are returning to graduate school rather than attempting to compete for the few available jobs.

a myopic
an anemic
a botched
a booming
an educated

71. Despite his longtime advocacy for campaign finance reform, the career politician was, in fact, far more (i) _____ corporate interests than his rival, whose relatively recent entry into the political arena meant that he had far fewer (ii) _____ to make good on.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
leery of	affiliations
beholden to	dilemmas
apathetic about	obligations

72. Far too (i) _____ to consider a career in the political limelight, the unassuming aide contented herself with a career behind the scenes, (ii) _____ supporting the political heavyweights of her day.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
diffident	implicitly
apathetic	quietly
ideological	skeptically

73. There are many good reasons to construct urban traffic lanes for cyclists: city infrastructure is already _____ under the strain of excess auto traffic, and the safety advantages of limiting road-sharing between cyclists and vehicles are all too clear.

seething
waiting

groaning
baying
intensifying

74. Though the professor had made her (i) _____ tendencies clear to the hiring committee, the extent and consistency of her (ii) _____ was still a surprise to many who had voted to approve her hiring: she persistently challenged the academic methods and the institutional procedures of her department and of the university as a whole, going so far as to advocate for the (iii) _____ of “inherently elitist” institutions of higher education in the name of democratizing education.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
intellectual	iconoclasm	abolition
illiberal	theories	enshrinement
heterodox	intelligence	mitigation

75. The apparent simplicity of a cup of coffee _____ the dizzying number of hours of toil required to produce it, from months of cultivation of the bean tree to painstaking refinement in highly sophisticated machinery.

redresses
confirms
belies
furnishes
fosters

76. Notwithstanding the mishmash of worn tools littering every surface of the artist’s studio, the place exuded a certain sense of order manifest through the clutter; the décor was, if (i) _____, (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
unkempt	largely unsophisticated
dire	positively callous
arduous	surprisingly deliberate

77. Two years after the legislature’s (i) _____ approval of the community arts center, construction came to an equally public standstill, largely due to the unforeseen hemorrhaging of the (ii) _____ funds at the hands of spendthrift leaders.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

scorned	stolen
heralded	exacerbated
ratified	appropriated

78. Incensed, and perhaps spooked, by the implications of the bureau's purportedly (i) _____ inquisitions, the Hollywood film director shuttered his studios, suspended production of numerous projects, and (ii) _____ with his wife to Europe.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

suspicious	immigrated
benign	decamped
risqué	pandered

79. The relationship between the two leaders has gone from positively (i) _____ to chilly at best, not least because the recent arms scandal threatens to (ii) _____ the mutual trust that has been held on both sides for years.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

peaceful	bolster
reverent	erode
congenial	fester

80. In an age of near-instantaneous fact checking, political candidates must be careful of making spontaneous statements intended to appease a crowd, as any fictitious claim will inevitably be found to be _____ .

dull
bogus
genuine
unnecessary
unfamiliar

81. His grandmother's house was always a bedlam of porcelain figurines, collector's spoons, and other (i) _____ doodads. But it hardly would have been (ii) _____ to tell her that he thought her choice of décor was vulgar; in fact, he had to think (iii) _____ , because the avaricious youth was gunning for a big birthday present from her.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

tacky	discerning	amicably
vitreous	rancorous	tactically
grizzled	doting	duplicitously

82. The captain (i) _____ (ii) _____ for as long as he could, but eventually the crew became frustrated with the small portions of mead and the dearth of plunder, and decided to take matters into their own hands.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
dissuaded	sea change
warded off	mutiny
depreciated	helmsmanship

83. Of course, we would all like to believe that our every success is of our own manufacture, but to believe that is to neglect the (i) _____ element present in all lives, beginning with a birth lottery that assigns to some such gifts as intelligence and to others such (ii) _____ as wealth.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
common	encumbrances
inchoate	dispensations
serendipitous	piques

84. The eyes of the mantis shrimp have more types of photoreceptors, or color-detecting cells, than those of any other animal on the planet. While one would think that this would allow the mantis shrimp to better (i) _____ colors, researchers have found this to be (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
improve	baseless
discriminate	obvious
distort	illiberal

85. Jackson's supporters praised his earthy speech as evidence of his common touch, while his (i) _____ condemned it as (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
interlocutors	vulgar

detractors	obtuse
contemporaries	genteel

86. Economists have developed such sophisticated and (i) _____ mathematical tools for modeling human behavior that other social scientists often employ those tools to model and help (ii) _____ even decisions that have no obvious economic consequences.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

eclectic	interpolate
populist	extrapolate
versatile	explicate

87. Patients who stop taking antibiotics when symptoms subside contribute to the evolution of drug-resistant strains, because an incomplete course of treatment spares the most _____ bacteria.

widespread
immature
robust
benign
notorious

88. Children who are recognized as preternaturally intelligent often go on to fulfill their early promise, contrary to the stereotype of maladjusted _____ wasting their gifts.

prodigies
teenagers
cranks
theorizers
pragmatists

89. Freud's structural model of the psyche should be understood as (i) _____ device, useful for inciting and guiding discovery, rather than as an attempt to (ii) _____ physical relationships among parts of the human brain.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
a heuristic	dictate
a literary	ameliorate
an allegorical	represent

90. The silent-film pioneer Harold Lloyd made a virtue of the (i) _____ limits of his day, playing men so (ii) _____ it was easy to imagine it was the character rather than the medium who lacked a voice.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
artistic	avant-garde

commercial	diffident
technical	reluctant

91. When first introduced by senior management, the new boss was viewed as a figurehead at best, but after months of watching him shake up the office hierarchy and double productivity, even the most _____ of his employees was astonished at what he was able to accomplish.

scrutinized
clueless
skeptical
senior
resolute

92. Critics of media consolidation say that it has resulted in both a (i) _____ of unique viewpoints and a lack of local news coverage: conglomerates will often discuss the same issues and talking points across all platforms, while (ii) _____ events are no longer covered by smaller media organizations that can't afford to (iii) _____ enough full-time reporters.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
banality	elaborate	staff
deviation	domestic	imply
scarcity	regional	broadcast

93. Just as Philip K. Dick's acclaimed science fiction shows his gift for dystopian fantasy, so too his early efforts at mainstream novels (i) _____ his ability to represent the more (ii) _____ world.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
attest to	ebullient
belie	quotidian
gainsay	fantastical

94. The independent audit showed that the company was not _____, let alone flourishing, as its initial report to its stockholders tried to aver.

copious

evasive
thriving
unprecedented
solvent

95. A business that, when it receives a requisite amount of regulatory pressure, (i) _____ its own non-compliance with industry safety standards with yet another series of suspect omissions, is of the most highly (ii) _____ variety.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

imbues	laudable
verifies	contrived
supplants	contemptible

96. Unfortunately for the young hire, the amiable, gregarious air of his boss during the initial interview belied a vastly more _____ style on the job, a fact that he learned to his chagrin within the first few days of employment.

draconian
friendly
fatuous
illicit
nonplussed

97. (i) _____ comprehension of the character of Italian wine is impeded not only by labyrinthine complexities of vineyards and varietals, but also by fluctuations in environmental conditions from year to year, which render even the most reliable vintages subject to (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

An exhaustive	efficient taxonomy
A futile	remarkable variance
An irredeemable	mitigating circumstances

98. Added to the (i) _____ with which the clerk seems to treat his clients is what appears to be a more general lack of respect for his office; he seems to treat the whole thing as if it were some grand (ii) _____ .

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

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casual nonchalance	gesture
profound meticulousness	farce
idle envy	tirade

99. According to critics, the novelist's latest effort, with its dry pedantry and humorless presentation, managed to make a seemingly (i) _____ subject matter into (ii) _____ collection of poorly constructed sentences.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
engaging	a worthy
affectless	a tired
dogmatic	an instructive

100. The more deeply one delves into the relevant literature, the more apparent it becomes that psychoanalysis is a practice (i) _____. Even tenets that some might deem (ii) _____ to the general philosophy, such as the notion that the human psyche is primarily governed by conflicting desires and is formed in large part by early childhood experiences, are by no means accepted as gospel, even by some of its most (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
teeming with ridicule	critical	esteemed beneficiaries
devoid of substance	immaterial	quarrelsome factions
rife with contention	anathema	seasoned practitioners

101. The pair's apparent antagonism could easily be written off as (i) _____ pure and simple, but further scrutiny should render (ii) _____ the fact that the rivalry also confers a fair amount of (iii) _____, insofar as it provides each an opportunity to derive inspiration and motivation from the other.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
hypocrisy	useless	worthless pride
antipathy	patent	mutual benefit
flagrancy	spurious	tacit disagreement

102. In this day and age, side show barkers, competing with the unfathomable number of spectacular oddities daily displayed on the Internet for free, must increasingly lard their pitches with flights of fancy and soaring

_____, arching far beyond reality, to fill the seats in their arcades.

tit for tat
parables
conundrums
innuendos
hyperboles

103. (i) _____ the law had little impact, but it was (ii) _____ by subsequent legislation providing funding and enforcement.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
Justifiably	rendered moot
Unbelievably	given teeth
Initially	kept at bay

104. Evoking both horror and joy in its audience in equal measure, the opera became an instant classic of _____ technique.

macabre
figurative
articulate
counterpoint
contrived

105. The famous Notre Dame cathedral in Paris took almost 200 years to complete; this immense architectural effort included the first notable use of a flying _____, but this renowned feature was not part of the original design and was only employed when the walls forming the nave began to crumble and needed additional support.

partition
albatross
hallmark
buttress
trademark

106. While no single empirical investigation can ever conclusively prove the (i) _____ of a theory, the fact that the data are (ii) _____ findings from over a dozen independent labs worldwide bodes well for the framework's resilience.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
rationality	consistent with

veracity	founded on
candor	antithetical to

107. A full account of the complexities of sleep, sought after by scientists, philosophers, and mystics for millennia, continues to elude us. That we are still so ignorant about a topic so (i) _____ to our daily lives is at once fascinating and (ii) _____ .

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

mysterious	deeply humbling
obscure	fully impenetrable
pertinent	totally blatant

108. Mozart's brief life exemplified a discrepancy between fame and means: as his musical star (i) _____ beyond measure, his income (ii) _____ .

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

abated	grew exponentially
waxed	remained exorbitant
dwindled	barely stirred

109. Finally, after refusing for a decade, the family patriarch, weakened by age and infirmity, surrendered to the impassioned pleas of his avaricious nieces, and gave his _____ to the risky investment stratagem.

assent
ascent
dissent
descent
assertion

110. Even thrill-seeking visitors to amusement parks will avoid those attractions with a reputation for real (i) _____ , like those at the now-shuttered Action Park. These patrons want not danger but its (ii) _____ , a ride that (iii) _____ but is in fact perfectly safe.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

peril	complement	satisfies
-------	------------	-----------

titillation	simulacrum	mollifies
lavishness	abettor	terrifies

111. Desktop publishing allows (i) _____ to do for themselves the work once reserved for professionals whose (ii) _____ or other training developed design skills along with narrow technical mastery.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
dilettantes	sensibility
artisans	acumen
idealogues	apprenticeship

112. There was much to admire about the singer's voice, but her abilities as a performer were not as (i) _____ as those of the singer who followed, whose stage presence was far more (ii) _____ .

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

unremarkable	charismatic
hackneyed	pedestrian
arresting	experienced

113. The contradictions in the philosopher's life were more (i) _____ because he was celebrated for his prodigal intellectual (ii) _____ that led to his profound insights.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

insightful	acumen
confounding	vacuity
unpremeditated	veracity

114. If impact on one's contemporaries is the test of (i) _____ , Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman* cannot be said to be among the most significant postmodern novels, as it went unpublished and unread for 27 years. The literary theorist Keith Hopper, though, appeals to standards other than peer (ii) _____ when he argues persuasively that *The Third Policeman* is among the most important of early postmodern works, not least because of its deep subversion of both enlightenment and modern traditions in literature.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

eminence	currency
modishness	influence
conversance	dissolution

115. One liberal activist asserts that politicians' tendency to (i) _____ talk of class warfare stems largely from a communal state of denial, a refusal to accept that we already occupy a highly (ii) _____ society.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

--	--

denigrate	socialized
besmirch	balkanized
encourage	politicized

116. In the course of a transatlantic voyage following the First World War, he magically acquired an honorific title of “Count” as well as a “von” in his name, a development due to his aquiline nose and social (i) _____ rather than his (ii) _____ genetics, which lacked any distinction, and he (iii) _____ successfully enough in New York City to parlay this charade into a small fortune.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
arrogance	peasant	coalesced
deftness	patrician	dissembled
maladroitness	perturbing	disseminated

117. There is little agreement among specialists about whether the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution provides _____ guarantee of a right to bear arms for private citizens, or whether it was instead meant to allow the populace to protect itself in lieu of a military.

an earnest
an amended
a questionable
a defeasible
an ironclad

118. The writer Lillian Hellman honestly called her disingenuous argumentative strategy “the nobility racket”: a _____ that involved taking the moral high ground no matter how removed from the subject at hand.

philosophy
sophistry
sinecure
volubility
serendipity

119. The fitness guru, seemingly an advocate of overall salubrious living, often, late at night and behind closed doors, _____ his integrity by

consuming vast quantities of sugar and chemical-riddled junk food.

ridiculed
restored
undermined
redacted
insinuated

120. The recent discoveries of unexploded World War II munitions buried just beneath houses and roads in European cities is very (i) _____, since one can easily imagine becoming a (ii) _____ of a war that ended decades ago.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

exhilarating	hero
disquieting	martyr
demeaning	casualty

121. It may be surprising that even perennially (i) _____ reporters have had misgivings about entering the war zone; their (ii) _____ at the prospect can only be a reflection of the heightened (iii) _____ that pervades the region.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

professional	trepidation	rhetoric
dauntless	excitement	peril
foreign	skepticism	awareness

122. One does not generally associate teenagers with (i) _____. Jean, however, exercises a self-discipline that verges on (ii) _____. It is unclear whether this is a testament to a particularly conservative upbringing or a reaction against an excessively (iii) _____ one.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

silent obedience	asperity	illiberal
polished urbanity	punishment	permissive
practiced restraint	asceticism	meddlesome

123. Unexpectedly, the actor's (i) _____ behavior did little to (ii) _____ his reputation as a family man, a reputation (iii) _____ by his exceptionally skilled team of publicists.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

dissolute	assuage	cleverly subverted

impudent	damage	easily refuted
paternal	temper	carefully cultivated

124. Now that fresh produce has become (i) _____—markets and stands in cities throughout the world boast dozens of varieties of fruits and vegetables for customers to choose from—many (ii) _____ that were once the inevitable result of nutritional deficiencies are now entirely (iii) _____ .

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

salubrious	maladies	organic
ubiquitous	reactions	dietetic
comestible	cultivars	preventable

125. Despite her (i) _____ position on tax reform, the senator was not (ii) _____ to strike a concessionary tone when she debated the issue with her opponents.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
conservative	loath
fiduciary	permitted
hardline	qualified

126. There seems to be (i) _____ the practice of medicine in the United States: while it is the duty of medical professionals to maintain the health of their patients, the same professionals stand to profit more from their patients' (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
a protest against	infirmity
an aversion to	inattentiveness
a paradox in	uncertainty

127. Whereas early work in the field of spectroscopy (i) _____ the dispersal of visible light by a prism, the concept was later (ii) _____ to (iii) _____ any and all interactions with radiative energy, including electromagnetic radiation, pressure waves, and the kinetic energy of particles.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
contrasted with	expanded	affirm
arose from	transformed	endure
focused on	amended	include

128. While Abdul's _____ with his children made him well loved, he worried what too much laxity might cost him in their teenage years.

complacence
sternness
satisfaction

equanimity
permissiveness

Text Completions Answers

1. **Apportioned.** You are told that football is by far the most popular sport in Europe. The word “whereas” then creates a contrast: the U.S. fans are evenly split among their many sports. “Regarded,” “inspired,” and “enjoyed” are all traps related to sports or fandom, but don’t properly express the sentence’s intention that the popularity is split. “Measured” is close, but doesn’t quite divide things appropriately. “Apportioned” means divided and allocated; it is the correct answer.

2. **Delusion.** The second half of the sentence states that it would take a miracle for a person to get to another solar system. In other words, it’s more or less impossible. “Dementia,” “catastrophe,” and “hysteria” do not reflect this meaning. And while space travel would be an incredible “innovation,” innovation also doesn’t express the proper meaning of this sentence. “Delusion,” meaning a belief that is maintained despite being contradicted by reality, is the best fit.

3. **Crowned, dismissed.** “Peculiarly enough” indicates that the blanks oppose each other, and “best English language playwright” indicates that blank (i) must be positive, so blank (ii) must be negative. “Crowned” is the only positive word choice for the first blank and is the correct answer; “stigmatized” means condemned, and “castigated” means scolded. In the second blank, “deified” has a positive tone and doesn’t express the contrast that the sentence suggests, while “demonized” is much too strong an attitude to direct towards someone for lacking education; “dismissed” is a more appropriate word and the correct answer.

4. **Abridged, complementary.** Certain “versions of novels and essays” cut out important parts, or “excise essential elements.” Then, “to fully understand the intent of the original,” students would have to “supplement,” or add to, “their reading with [some type of] sources.” So the text versions described by blank (i) are lacking parts of the original and the reading sources described by blank (ii) provide some of what is lacking. An “abridged” source is one that has been shortened, and “complementary sources” would enhance or support this shortened version. Be careful of the homophone “complimentary,” which means either admiring or given free of charge, neither of which works in blank (ii). “Compelling” sources would either evoke interest or inspire conviction. While the supplemental reading might do so, no indication of either additional meaning is given in the sentence, and this choice fails to

address the problem that “abridged versions” create for students. “Annotated versions” have additional notes of explanation; such versions would be *less* likely to require supplementation to understand, not more. Finally, there is no indication that the “[blank (i)] versions of novels and essays” are “antedated,” or dated prior to their actual date.

5. **Sophisticated.** The blank should be a positive word to accompany “alluring.” What’s more, it should be something that contrasts the “simple and quaint” nature of rural America. Given this, you need a positive word for something not simple. “Lascivious” means overtly and often inappropriately sexual; this doesn’t fit the sentence. “Foreign” may appear to go along with “expatriate;” it’s easy to fall into such a theme trap if you are not in the habit of pointing to explicit clues in the sentence (“simple and quaint,” in this case). “Alien” is similar in meaning to “foreign” and is also a slightly negative word. Likewise, “alienating” is not a positive word—in this case, it would lead to an impression that the young lad felt unwelcome in Paris. “Sophisticated,” with its sense of polished culture, offers the best contrast to “simple and quaint.”

6. **Cited, correct.** The first sentence states a fact about life expectancy that relates to the claim that the world is improving with time. Clearly this would be true if life expectancies have increased with time, making “cited” a perfect fit for blank (i). Neither “disregarded” nor “embodied” fits with the idiom “as evidence.” The second blank, however, says that this statistic is slightly misleading if one considers a second fact (i.e., that most children died in childbirth). While you might “prepare” for the fact or “read” for the fact, that does not change the fact. But if you “correct” for the fact that most children died in childbirth, then the new life expectancy statistic would change.

7. **Preposterous.** The sentence states that two things were thought to be equally unlikely in 1986. But today, while one of those events still seems quite far-fetched, the other is commonplace, making the argument sound absurd or “preposterous.” “Preternatural” means what is beyond normal or natural and is used to express mysterious or exceptional events. This argument isn’t really mysterious as much as it is wrong. Note that “prescient” (ability to foretell the future) is the opposite of what the sentence requires—because the prediction about the future was entirely wrong, it does not sound “prescient.” To “preordain” is to decide or determine an outcome in advance. While the fact that banking transactions from home are commonplace now could possibly imply that the transactions were “preordained,” the argument against such a possibility would neither be preordained nor sound preordained. Finally, “pithy” means concise, and nothing in the sentence suggests that the argument is concise.

8. **Lionize.** The bad news: there are a lot of hard words in this question. The good news: the sentence itself is relatively straightforward. There is a “widespread tendency” to do something, and that tendency “stems from [a] need to venerate” somebody. So the tendency described by the blank should be similar to “venerate.” “Castigate” means to punish or reprimand—the opposite of what you need. “Remember” and “appreciate” both seem to work, if somewhat imperfectly, but neither is strong enough to match “venerate” (treat with deep respect or awe). These are spin traps—close, but not quite right. “Indemnify” is a complicated word. It can mean to free someone from responsibility for some as yet uncommitted wrongdoing—sort of like handing someone a “Get out of jail free” card. It can also mean to promise money against a potential loss, as is the case with insurance. Fortunately, neither of these meanings, complicated though they are, aligns with “venerate.” Only “lionize”—to grant someone celebrity status—works in this context.

9. **Cerebral, intellectual.** From the beginning, the passage sets up a

dichotomy between the work of the brain and the work of the body. The second sentence compares how “[blank] work strains the mind” to how “physical work strains the body,” and so blank (i) should be a word describing the “musings of a mathematician” as they compare to “the physical labor of a carpenter.” Here, again, the word should be something that goes along with academic and “cerebral.” “Quotidian” means everyday, common, or unextraordinary. “Extraordinary” is the opposite of “quotidian” and doesn’t offer the counterpoint to “physical labor” necessary for this blank. “Intellectual,” however, fits blank (ii) perfectly.

10. **Amusing, caustic.** The clue “usual” means that the two blanks must match “humorous” but acerbic—and in that order. “Slandorous” and “serious” are, respectively, unrelated to and the opposite of humorous, making “amusing” the only possible answer choice for the first blank. Similarly, “acerbic” needs to pair with a word that means something similar to sharp or sarcastic. “Caustic” is a perfect synonym, while “considerate” is the opposite of what is needed and “hysterical” might match the first blank but not the second.

11. **Circle.** The clue “in turn” suggests that the event occurs continuously, making “circle” the best answer choice in this sentence. Incorrect answers “irony” and “comedy” add an idea—humor—that was not indicated by the sentence. Finally, “serendipity” and “vicissitude” are somewhat antonyms of one another with the first being a happy occurrence and the second being an unhappy one. However, the sentence does not suggest that the accusing done by each generation is anything other than matter-of-fact.

12. **Abreast of.** The word “although” indicates that what the professor is doing is unusual or not required of a retired person. “Takes pains” also indicates that what she is doing is difficult. To keep “abreast of” a topic is to remain current and is therefore the correct answer. “Akimbo” means in a hands-on-hips stance, which would probably be a pain but isn’t something the professor could do “to the latest developments in her field.” “Obtuse” (slow-witted) does not fit the desired meaning. There’s no reason to believe that the professor is “subservient to” the developments in her field. And finally, “askance” means with a look of disapproval, which also doesn’t fit in this sentence.

13. **Proponent, catalyst.** The woman in this sentence “finally got the bill onto the legislative agenda,” so she is definitely an advocate, or “proponent,” of the legislation. She’s not a “critic” of the legislation, but she’s also not an “apologist” since there’s no clue in the sentence to believe that the legislation is controversial. In blank (ii), “mercenary” means she would be paid for her efforts and “lackey” means she would be doing this subserviently for someone else. Either option might work if there were additional clues about the subject, but without those clues, “catalyst,” someone who creates change, is the best option and the correct answer.

14. **Trumpet, taciturn.** Jeremy is successful, but it takes his family a long time to discover his accomplishments. Thus, Jeremy does not brag—or even report the facts! To “trumpet” is to talk loudly or report something to everyone and is a better option than “demarcate,” set the boundaries of, or “whitewash,” cover up some unpleasant facts. In the second blank, only “taciturn,” which means quiet, works, Jeremy doesn’t talk much at all. “Improvident” means not providing for the future, and “dissolute” means lax in morals or licentious. Nothing in the sentence indicates either description.

15. **Acerbic, impecunious.** Standing alone, any of the choices for the first blank could describe “witticisms,” which are witty remarks. Remarks could be “innovative” (original or creative), “acerbic” (sharp or sarcastic), or “inimical” (harmful or hostile). However, the remarks are described as

“cutting remarks” after the semicolon, so the first blank should match that characterization. “Cutting” is a synonym for “acerbic,” so this is the best choice. “Inimical” is too negative, conflicting with the idea that “Wilde catapulted to sudden fame both because of and despite” his remarks. The second blank is part of a two-part list: “he died _____ and sickly.” The cause is given in the preceding two-part list: “the cutting remarks ... led to his financial and physical ruin.” A two-by-two structure like this stays in order, meaning that “financial ... ruin” is related to the blank, just as “physical ruin” is related to “sickly.” Only “impecunious,” which means poor or destitute, fits. Neither “pallid” (pale) nor “aghast” (horrified) fits with “financial ruin.”

16. **Emblematic of, pragmatic, posit.** The end of the sentence states that Hursthouse puts forth the same views as many other virtue ethicists. So in the first blank, the sentence requires something like representative of.

“Emblematic of” is a perfect fit here and the correct answer. “Breaking away from” conveys the opposite meaning and “enigmatic to” (difficult to understand) also does not fit the desired meaning. It’s later stated that Hursthouse thinks ethics is neither situational nor utilitarian—the next part of the sentence will have a first part that matches up with situational and a second part that matches up with utilitarian. (GRE sentences often use a pattern of mentioning two things, and then giving more information about those two things in the same order.) For example, “Base one’s judgments on subjective concerns” refers back to a situational approach to ethics and a “_____ weighing of pain and pleasure” refers back to a utilitarian (or practical) approach. Thus, “pragmatic,” which means practical, matches better than “quixotic,” which means impractical, or “grandiloquent,” which means pretentious. Finally, critics agree with the idea that virtue ethicists seek to enshrine their own prejudices, so in the third blank, the sentence needs a word like say or claim. “Posit” is the only match since “deny” is the opposite of what the sentence intends and “cajole” (persuade) does not fit the context.

17. **Roundly, panned.** The sentence indicates that there wasn’t a single positive comment from any critic; in other words, the film was unanimously criticized or 100% disliked. “Mendaciously” means dishonestly, and there’s no clue to indicate that the critics were being dishonest. Similarly, there’s no clue in the sentence to suggest that anyone was “warily” suggesting anything. “Roundly” means emphatically or so thoroughly as to leave no doubt. “Panned” means reviewed negatively and is almost always used to refer to plays, movies, etc., so the word is a perfect match here—to be roundly panned would mean reviewed 100% negatively, which is exactly what the sentence suggests. “Lauded” and “venerated” are both positive and would indicate that the critics enjoyed the movie; clearly that’s not the case here.

18. **Aesthetics.** The sentence states that “the distinction between architecture and engineering professions” is that architecture must consider something in addition to “functionality.” Later, the sentence indicates that architectural clients base decisions more on beauty than practicality, so architecture must consider visual appeal as well as functionality. The word that best fits this meaning is “aesthetics.” “Insouciance,” meaning carelessness or indifference, does not fit. “Utility,” “price,” and “profundity” are all characteristics that architects might consider, but they don’t take into account the fact that clients base their decisions on beauty.

19. **Insensibly.** The phrase “once considered” suggests that whatever follows is no longer thought to be true, so the blank will oppose the clue “capable of genuine imitation” and go along with the idea that the bearded dragons were thought to be acting “without understanding the action’s deeper significance.” An appropriate choice, then, will mean something like “mindlessly.” “Listlessly” means unenergetically, while “actively” means the opposite. “Consciously” is a reversal trap. To do something “attentively” means to do so with great interest. This leaves “insensibly,” which means unaware or incapable of perception.

20. **Coda.** There are two possibilities for the blank: something like a bad ending (yet another bad event occurred in December) or something like an inconvenience (relative to the other “devastating” events). A “coda” is an ending that sums up what came before, which, in this case, was pretty bad. A “rampage” is bad but does not fit grammatically before the word “to,” nor does it correctly describe an earthquake—rather, murderers or mobs go on rampages. A “prologue” would be at the beginning of the year, not at the end. “Catharsis” means an emotional release and doesn’t fit the context of a natural disaster, which would build up emotional distress rather than release it. And finally, “homily” is a lecture, sometimes religious, but this doesn’t fit the context of a natural disaster.

21. **Presciently, simpatico.** The sentence indicates that the two writers very much thought alike. “Presciently” means seeing into the future or as though seeing into the future, which is exactly what the writers were able to do while anticipating each other’s letters. “Ominously” puts too negative of a spin on the anticipation, and “anachronistically,” which means out of time, does not fit the context of the sentence. “Simpatico” matches the idea of being of one mind better than “providential,” favorable or auspicious, or “shrewd.”

22. **Inured to.** “Casting a blind eye to” suffering means that these people ignore or pretend not to see the suffering. Thus, they are “inured to” suffering—they are hardened and desensitized as a result of seeing so much of it. Trap answer “exempted” would mean that the people described are no longer personally subject to the suffering, which the sentence does not indicate. Because they ignore suffering, they also wouldn’t be “maudlin” or “effusive,” which are about expressing strong feelings. Finally, “dominant over” does not fit idiomatically since you can’t become dominant over suffering.

23. **Coalesced.** Since the group overcame the “struggle over power” and became “a harmonious team,” the blank needs a word that means came together. “Coalesced” matches perfectly and is the correct answer.

“Agglomerated” is a bit of a trap—to agglomerate is to collect or form into a mass or group. Since the people were already in a group, the word is inappropriate (agglomerate is also used more for things than for people).

“Fractured” is the opposite of coming together. The other options are difficult words but are used in contexts very different than group harmony:

“syncopated” means either the shortening of a word or the displacement of beats in a musical piece and “amortized” means reducing a debt.

24. **Considered.** The newcomers and the long-time fans are divided in their opinions. The newcomers were happy with the show, so the long-time fans must have been unhappy: they thought that “the storyline” was “unfinished.” Only “considered” matches this meaning. “Appreciated” is a reversal trap. The fans did not “generate,” “examine,” or “secure” the storyline.

25. **Finishing, trying.** Since the novel will take “innumerable hours to review and edit,” the author is far from completing, or “finishing,” it. “Inscribing” (writing) is a theme trap and “rejecting” does not convey the desired meaning. The second blank will agree with the clue that immediately follows: “the book’s length” and its “convoluted plot.” Therefore, it will be hard, or “trying,” to finish the book. “Hardy” (strong, resilient) and “redundant” do not match the required meaning.

26. **Inveigle.** The word “despite” indicates that there is a contrast between what the salesman is attempting to do and how the couple is responding. The salesman is attempting to give them false compliments in order to get the couple to buy a car, but his tactic isn’t working. “Inveigle” means to flatter or charm someone into doing something and is the correct answer. “Support,” “deliberate,” “marginalize” (relegate to an unimportant position), and “hector” (to bully, torment) do not convey this same meaning.

27. **Inform.** The poet’s childhood memories color, or influence, her work. The sentence needs a similar word for how war influences her poetry. “Inform”—to give substance, character, or distinction to—can be used in this way. “Mimic” is a trap answer choice: it may be possible to say that her poetry mimics her experiences, but not that her experiences mimic her poetry (rather, her experiences are mimicked in her poetry). “Invalidate” is too strong for this sentence nor does it indicate the proper meaning. “Defer” is not used properly (something defers *to* something else) nor would war likely defer to poetry. And “presage,” which means to foreshadow, does not pair with color as well as “inform” does.

28. **Erroneously, unbeknownst.** Since the peanut is not really a nut (it is a legume), it is being erroneously, or mistakenly, referred to as such. “Deftly” is the opposite of what the sentence suggests, and “archaically” would mean that the peanut used to be referred to as a nut. “Unbeknownst to” means unknown by, which would explain why people are making this mistake. “Abhorrent” is too strong of a term for this sentence, nor does the sentence indicate that anyone is disgusted by peanuts. “Consanguineous” comes from the latin roots con- (with) and sanguis (blood) to mean of the same blood or related: it’s hard to be blood-related to something that has no blood!

29. **Tremulous, chary of.** All of the clues in the sentence are about being scared, so “tremulous” matches best in blank (i). Neither “coltish” (playful) nor “cumbersome” (complicated, hard to handle) fix the meaning of the sentence. The sentence states that the child finds diving even more frightening than water in general, so “chary of ” (suspicious or slightly scared of), a less extreme version of frightening, fits. “Repulsed by” is too strong of a word for blank (ii) and “beguiled by” would mean the child was deceived by the water.

30. **Sentries, fecund, progeny.** The sentence states that soldier ants guard the colony and supply it with food, “thus acting as both _____ and laborers.” In this sentence pattern, the first blank matches up with “guard the colony” and “laborers” matches up with “supply it with food.” “Sentries,” or guards, matches perfectly and is the correct word for blank (i). A “sage” is a wise scholar and a “sycophant” is a lackey or flatterer, neither of which fits the meaning of the sentence. The sentence then states that the queen can continually “populate the colony,” so “fecund” (fertile) goes in blank (ii) and progeny (offspring) goes in blank (iii). “Efficacious” means effective and “imperius” means domineering, but the sentence does not indicate that this would describe the queen ant. “Forebears” means ancestors, which is the opposite of what blank (iii) requires. Finally, “harbingers” means a herald or a forerunner of something else, but producing signs of something else would not help to populate a colony.

31. **Ephemeral, heralded.** Since the government lasted only about two months, it was “ephemeral,” or short-lived. “Equivocal,” or ambiguous, and “omnipotent,” or all powerful, could describe a government, but this sentence gives no such indication of either of these meanings. Despite the fact that it was short-lived, the government was regarded, or celebrated, as the emergence of a powerful working class: only “heralded” matches. The expression “discounted as X” might work if the final part of the sentence held a more negative tone: the idea was discounted as too impractical. But “the

emergence of a powerful working class” has no such negative connotation. Similarly, “recanted,” or renounced, would only work if the final part of the sentence was something that was being disavowed.

32. Complications, stouter, a concomitant. The first sentence says that taller turbines would be better, but there is some contrasting negative element. In other words, the “engineers are facing” some “complications.” Neither “flaws” nor “supplements” conveys this idea of difficulty in building the turbines. In the second sentence, “Taller towers necessitate _____ bases, requiring the current width to be nearly doubled,” suggests that the second blank should mean wider. The only choice for the second blank that can mean “wider” is “stouter.” “Equitable,” meaning fair, and “unobtrusive” do not mean anything like “wider.” The final sentence says that the wider sections lead “to a(an) _____ issue” because they are too large to transport on modern highways. Therefore, the third blank has to mean something like additional. Although “a theoretical issue” has a nice sound to it, the problem is very real, so “theoretical” cannot be correct. “Objective” used as an adjective means unbiased, which does not fit the intended meaning. “Concomitant,” which means accompanying (often in a subordinate way), matches well.

33. **Obsequious.** “Plaudits” are praise (note the similarity to “applause”), which matches the idea of praise being “heaped upon him” on a “prolonged and elaborate farewell tour.” Additionally, the negative certainty of “*no one* thought the plaudits heaped upon him were _____” matches in degree the positive certainty of “*admired by all*.” If he was admired by all, then no one would think that the praise was undeserved or inappropriate. Thus, “deserved” represents a reversal trap. “Obsequious,” meaning attentive to an excessive degree, puts a negative spin on the praise, which is what “no one” would think; this is the answer. “Derivative” as an adjective has several meanings, depending on what it is describing: it is typically applied to people or the works of art they produce (imitative) or can apply to a financial product (having a value based on some asset). Here, “derivative” describes “plaudits,” so it most likely means originating from or based on something. Because the blank is not getting at whether the praise is original, but rather whether it is appropriate, this choice is incorrect. Both “vestigial,” residual or leftover, and “antiquated,” old-fashioned or outdated, introduce additional meaning not indicated by the sentence.

34. **Sanguine, peccadilloes.** The sentence states that the man’s personality is pleasing—so pleasing that “it’s hard to be bothered by” something in his past. The first word should match pleasing, and the second should be something negative that others might overlook. “Sanguine” means cheerful and optimistic. Note that “high-handed” might sound positive, but actually means tactlessly overbearing. “Evanescient” (fading quickly, short-lived) is inappropriate to describe a personality. “Peccadilloes” are minor faults or sins—small enough that they might be overlooked if the person has other virtues. “Incendiaries” can mean either bombs or a person who stirs up conflict; the former definition is too strong for the blank, and the latter does not fit the meaning of the sentence. “Achievements” has a positive connotation, while the second blank should convey a negative connotation.

35. **Menacing, unprovoked.** The Tasmanian devil, a type of wild animal, is “not considered _____ since only a few of its confrontations,” or hostile encounters, “with humans have been _____.” The two blanks have to work together in this sentence, and the second blank is easier. “Unprovoked” is the only choice for the second blank that would reasonably describe hostile encounters with wild animals. “Quixotic,” which means idealistic or unrealistic, does not work because the sentence is talking about real encounters. “Premature” does not fit either. Given that the Tasmanian devil usually only confronts humans when provoked, it is not “menacing,” which is the correct choice for blank (i). Because it is a wild animal, it cannot be

considered predictable, so “unpredictable” is incorrect. “Adverse,” which is used to describe something that is harmful because it prevents success, is inappropriate to use in describing a wild animal. You might say that the presence of wild animals is an “adverse” factor, but you could not say that the animals themselves were “adverse.”

36. **Verdant, castigated.** The sentence indicates that the employee is young and makes mistakes. “Verdant” means either green and lush, like a forest, or new and inexperienced (the use of green as a metaphor, as in, she’s still green at her job). “Banal” means unoriginal, which does not fit with the rest of the sentence, and “sagacious” means shrewd, which is the opposite of how the employee acted. Since the mistake was so expensive, it makes sense that the employee would be “castigated,” or severely criticized. He wouldn’t be “deposed”—that word is for kings, dictators, etc., forced out of power. And the employee would not be “enamored,” or filled with a feeling of love, for the mistake he just made.

37. **Facile.** The sentence suggests that the idea of bringing about world peace by saying “love one another” is naïve, or oversimplified. “Facile” matches well and has the sense of superficial. Neither “convoluted” (difficult to understand, complicated) nor “impeccable” (flawless) fit the desired meaning. “Amicable,” which means friendly, and “dulcet,” which means sweet and soothing, have a similar problem: while the suggestion might be a friendly and sweet one, those definitions don’t properly convey the idea that the suggestion is naïve.

38. **Garrulous.** A “euphemism” is a mild or indirect term substituted for one considered too harsh or blunt. Adults referred to the girl with the positive word “precocious,” which means forward or advanced for her age, whereas she really was “overly talkative,” so the blank should mean something like too talkative, or garrulous. “Skittish” could be cast as positive (excitable) or negative (unpredictable, jittery), but neither is a negative spin on “forward” nor “talkative.” The other choices are either neutral, such as “naïve,” meaning innocent or unworldly, or positive, such as “solicitous” (concerned or attentive) and “endearing” (lovable or charming). None of these choices would require a euphemistic replacement. “Impudent,” then, is the correct choice.

39. **Motley, even, sole.** This question is an excellent lesson in the principle: *don’t add anything to your reading of the sentence that wasn’t there already.* The sentence indicates that the first short story collection had many diverse voices and the second collection has “a _____ narrator”—in other words, just one speaker. The word “sole” fits the third blank; neither “lonely” nor “disingenuous” convey the idea of a single narrator. The first story collection was a “hodgepodge” (jumble), but the second was not a jumble; it was an “even” set of stories. “Insightful” and “facetious” (not serious) are not antonyms for a jumble. For the first blank, “motley” works because it means composed of diverse and often incongruous elements. “Variable” is a trap: a variable hodgepodge of voices would imply that the voices in the first collection can change over time, not that the voices were varied or diverse. And “homogenous” would indicate that the voices were all similar; this describes the second collection, not the first.

40. **Reversing.** The opening words, “In contrast,” alert you to look for the opposition between “environmental economics” and “ecological economics.” The latter field “positions the human economy as a subsystem of natural economies,” which is the opposite of a system that “subordinates” nature to the economy. The new system is opposite, or “reversing,” the way the old

system thought of things. “Corroborating” is a reversal trap for those who missed “in contrast.” “Circumscribing” means to enclose or encircle and is thus inappropriate. “Ameliorating” is the process of mitigating or making better and is not a good match. “Refuting,” a spin trap, is the most tempting incorrect answer, but the sentence only provides evidence for opposition, not contradiction.

41. **Efficacious.** Because the semicolon indicates agreement, the blank will agree with “opponents were still able to set aside differences and work across party lines, as is typically necessary to pass productive legislation.” In other words, political opponents were once able to govern effectively despite their differences but they can no longer do so today. “Efficacious” means effective as a means or remedy and so is a good match. “Polemical,” meaning strongly opinionated, and “civil” are not justified by the clue. “Enjoyable” and “immutable,” meaning unchangeable, do not match the desired meaning. Note that “enjoyable” introduces a new idea not present in the original sentence. Don’t assume that the old days were necessarily enjoyable; all you know is that they were effective, or efficacious.

42. **Deification, garlands.** The straightforward structure and positive spin indicate positive choices for both blanks. “Excoriation” means harsh criticism and is the opposite tone of what the sentence requires. “Praise” is positive but doesn’t match the clue “laid at the altar,” which suggests a more extreme version of a positive word. That leaves the correct answer, “deification” for blank (i). The second blank has two words with negative meanings: “calumnies” means slander and “obloquies” means abusive language. That leaves “garlands,” the correct answer, a word that is most commonly used to describe a wreath of flowers and leaves worn as an honorable *décoration*, but can also mean a prize or distinction.

43. **Artifices.** The clues “bifurcated” and “but” signal a contrast: commercial portrait painters are similar to other painters in some ways, but the blank refers to how they are in some ways different than those other painters (they try to make the subject look more attractive in the painting). The correct answer, “artifices,” means a trickery or deception and fits perfectly with the clue. Trap answers “palettes” and “aesthetics” are related to painting, but don’t match the meaning of the blank. “Artifacts” is a trap word that looks similar to “artifices” but means a historic relic. “Sentiments” is an attitude, but the sentence provides no information about the painter’s attitude or how that would make the subject of the piece more attractive.

44. **Pedantry.** The correct answer should parallel “dogmatic” and match the negative spin of “enervates rather than inspires.” “Wisdom,” “pulchritude” (beauty), and “wit” are all positive terms that don’t match with the sentence structure. Only “pedantry” (being arrogant in relation to learning) and “parsimony” (stinginess) are negative, and only “pedantry” fits the idea of an uninspiring professor.

45. **Minutiae.** The correct answer must reflect the clue “petty” and oppose the idea of “lofty goals.” Lincoln felt that McClellan paid so much attention to trivial details, or “minutiae,” that he ignored the big picture. The trap answer “irrelevancies” is incorrect because the “logistical details” are not irrelevant; they are merely minor, or not worthy of so much attention. “Tactics” and “strategy” don’t convey the idea of minor details. And nothing in the sentence suggests that attention was being placed on minor offenses or “peccadilloes.”

46. **Appealing shyness, enthralled.** As is often the case, the second blank is easier; given the structure, it must match the clue “captivating” in meaning and spin. “Enthralled” is a perfect match here and the correct answer. “Repelled” is far too negative a tone, and “amused,” while positive, does not match the idea of “captivating.” The first blank must parallel “hesitancy and

understatement” and also have a positive spin. “Awkward lisp” does not have a positive spin and “overwhelming passion” does not parallel “hesitancy and understatement.” That leaves the correct answer “appealing shyness.”

47. **Conventionality, laudatory.** The word “surprisingly” before blank (ii) indicates that the blanks will oppose each other in tone; since the reviewers gave “unabashed approbation,” the second blank should be a positive word, such as receptive. “Laudatory” is a synonym for “approbation” and is therefore the correct answer. “Tepid,” meaning lukewarm, and “deprecating,” meaning to belittle or express disapproval, are not good matches. Given the oppositional structure, blank (i) should be negative. “Ingenuity” is too positive. “Tortuousness,” meaning twisting or crooked, and “conventionality” both have negative connotations. The reviewers “usually pounce on the slightest orthodoxy,” or widely accepted theory, so the best match is “conventionality.”

48. **Dissipation, profligate.** “Ironically” is a good clue here—the commentator condemned a quality that he himself actually possessed! Both words should be negative, similar in meaning, and match the idea of bankruptcy. “Dissipation” and “profligate” are both related to wastefulness or irresponsible living. “Indolence” means laziness, “probity” means integrity, “antediluvian” means outdated, and “ascetic” means austere. Notice that while some of the other words do have a negative spin, none of the incorrect choices are similar in meaning or match the idea of bankruptcy.

49. **A deplorable.** This sentence begins with the expression “For all,” an idiomatic way of saying “despite.” The second half of the sentence, then, should contradict the “meticulous preparation” reported in the first half: the student’s grade must have been bad. “Passable” wouldn’t do the job here—it would suggest a decent but not fantastic grade—and “outstanding” is the exact opposite of what you want. “Exacting” means demanding, and while the test must have been exacting on the student, his grade could not be described as such. “Surprising” is the most pernicious option, because the student was likely very surprised by a grade that did not reflect the work he put into studying; this choice does not make clear, however, that the student’s grade was terrible. “Deplorable,” on the other hand, fits the bill—it means surprisingly bad.

50. **Informed.** The clue “Just as” indicates that the second part of the sentence will need to mirror the first part. Thus, the blank must match the meaning of “provided the Romans with a model.” “Informed” can be used in this way and is the correct answer. Don’t be tricked by “duplicate” (to provide a model isn’t to make an exact copy) or “foresaw” (the remnants of Roman culture didn’t tell the future). Both “curbed” and “hindered” have too strong of a negative spin and do not mirror the first part of the sentence.

51. **Enhances.** The sentence requires a word that means helps or strengthens —“enhances” is a perfect synonym for strengthen and the correct answer. Don’t fall for “ensures,” which is too extreme. Having a head that can measure spaces is cool, but hardly guarantees the success of a species. “Reproduces” is a word related to success as a species, but does not fit the blank. “Mitigate” means to make less severe, and “inundate” means to overwhelm, neither of which fit in the blank.

52. **Guileless, canny.** The sentence contrasts the teacher’s “novice” appearance with what he in fact was. The second half of the sentence indicates that he understood the “byzantine” (complicated) power structures and was using the administration “to his advantage.” This suggests that he

was quite sharp, making “canny” a perfect fit for blank (ii). “Unseemly” means improper, and there’s no clue in the sentence that suggests his behavior was inappropriate. “Desultory” would mean that the teacher lacked a plan, but his use of the administration would suggest otherwise. Blank (i) describes the word “novice” and helps to explain how the teacher made himself appear: the opposite of “canny.” “Cunning” has a similar meaning to canny and might be selected by someone who misses the contrast between the two blanks. There’s no reason to believe that the teacher was “capricious,” or whimsical. That leaves “guileless,” a synonym for “innocent,” and a perfect fit in this sentence.

53. Irregularities, credible. If the methodologies are “flawed,” then there would be “significant irregularities” in the meta-study. Neither “subtleties” nor “consistencies” fits with the clue “flawed.” If there are “significant irregularities,” then the analysis is “anything but” good. For blank (ii) the best answer with a positive connotation is “credible,” or believable. “Intelligible” is also positive, but does not fit the contrast with the first blank, and “unreliable” is negative.

54. **Berserk, recede.** There are two major clues about the middle phases of a revolution: transferring power to “less temperate” forces would cause chaos, and a more peaceful period follows the difficult times. Therefore, blank (i) needs a word that means the opposite of peaceful. “Brusque” means short but is not the opposite of peaceful, and “pacific” is a synonym of peaceful and the exact opposite of what the blank requires. That leaves “berserk,” which is the correct answer. The second sentence states that a more peaceful time comes later, so the “excesses” should become more stable. “Metastasize” means to spread, which is the opposite of what the blank requires. “Grow” has the same problem. That leaves the correct answer “recedes.” If the difficult times “recede,” then a more peaceful time arrives.

55. **Parlous.** The correct answer must match dangerous—only “parlous” does this, and it is the correct answer. Note that “suicidal” is too extreme and not indicated by the sentence. Both “prudent” (wise) and “providential” (opportune) have the wrong tone for the blank. And “semiotic,” which means related to signs and symbols, is not supported by the sentence.

56. **Commercial.** The sentence gives two clues about the engineer: she is not interested in making products that match “market needs,” and her work is known more for “its technical brilliance” than for “its _____ potential.” Her work is technically good, then, but does not necessarily match “market” or customer needs; that is, it lacks “commercial” potential. Work that has technical brilliance could very well have lots of “scientific,” “academic,” or possibly even “revolutionary” potential; therefore none of these answer choices can be correct, since they do not offer any contrast. “Ergonomic” is a tempting choice since a brilliant piece of engineering might be quite uncomfortable for its user, but an engineer who lacks interest in developing needed products would not necessarily think to create uncomfortable products.

57. **Sangfroid, mercurial.** The sentence says that Frederick the Great was known for “his _____ under fire,” but goes on to say that his “equilibrium sometimes failed him.” That is the clue. The blank must mean something like grace or calm. “Sangfroid” (composure) is the best fit. “Intrepidity” (bravery) and “cruelty” do not match the clue. The failed equilibrium and “tirades” are both clues for blank (ii), which describes the way he sometimes behaved with his ministers. “Mercurial” (temperamental) is the best fit. “Fascist” (despotic) and “vainglorious” (boastful) go too far.

58. **Paradox, brook.** This sentence gives you very little to go on for blank (i); as is often the case, the clue for the first part appears in the second part of the

sentence. This second part presents a dilemma indicated by “on the one hand” and “on the other”: “teachers can ill afford to _____ indisputably disruptive behaviors,” but too much strictness can actually promote disruptions. So blank (ii) must be something like “tolerate,” as being tolerant would contradict being “overly strict,” and blank (i) needs a word that indicates a contradiction. Starting with blank (i), “entreaty” means a request, and so doesn’t fit this phrase at all. The “necessity of taking disciplinary action” sounds good in general, but the word “necessity” does not convey the idea of a contradiction. Instead, “paradox,” which means a seemingly self-contradictory situation, is the choice that best communicates the nature of the situation. Moving to blank (ii), “fabricate” means to make up, and “mitigate” means to lessen the impact of something; neither fits the idea of “tolerate.” Here “brook,” which means to tolerate or condone, is the best fit.

59. **A stopgap, paragon, perpetuity.** The implication of the phrase “a more permanent solution” is that the original building was not permanent: it was “a stopgap,” or a temporary fix. “An ornament” and “a modicum” (a small amount) don’t fit the desired meaning for the first blank. The clue for the second blank is “canonization.” To canonize something literally means to declare to be a saint, but in its figurative sense, it means to hold up as an exemplar or a “paragon.” The third blank gets its clue from “originally,” which indicates that you are looking for an opposite of transient. “In perpetuity” means forever, which fits. “Consecration” (dedication to the sacred) is a theme trap for “canonization,” a religious step to sainthood, but this word can also describe the process by which something comes to be regarded as figuratively saintlike, or as an ideal example. “Chronology” (order in time) is about time, but does not mean lasts forever.

60. **Amity, mores.** The word “though” indicates that the negotiation did not actually proceed smoothly. The first blank comes after “semblance of,” which indicates an outward appearance, especially one different from the reality. The word “disingenuous” backs up that meaning. You need something positive—the parties are showing false “amity,” or friendliness, out of “a superficial adherence to” (pretense of following) customs or rules—“mores.” The other choices for the first blank, “duplicity” (deliberate deceptiveness) and “solace” (comfort or consolation in sorrow) don’t fit logically with “disingenuous.” Similarly, “truisms” (self-evident claims) and “plaudits” (expressions of praise) would create a nonsensical meaning in the second blank.

61. **Elaboration, expatiation.** “Eschew” means to avoid or abstain, thus the speaker was unable to resist something that lengthened her presentation. The correct answer, “elaboration,” would lengthen a presentation. “Terseness” means brevity and is a reversal trap, and “precision” also is generally not something that would cause a presentation to become excessively long. For the second blank, the clue is “turned a five-minute policy brief into an hour-long,” making “expatiation,” which means to speak or write at length, the correct choice. Since the second blank must match the general meaning of the first blank, “elaboration,” the answer for the first blank provides another clue. “Distension,” the act of swelling, refers only to a physical swelling. Similarly, “repertory,” a collection of information or examples, doesn’t fit the context either.

62. **Cosmopolitan.** Because the clue is “no effect,” the blank will oppose championing “economic, political, and even cultural isolationism.” Isolationism is a policy of abstaining from relationships with other countries,

so the senator's upbringing must have been non-isolationist, or worldly. "Cosmopolitan" means worldly and is therefore a good fit. "Opulent" (wealthy), "tendentious" (opinionated), and "liberal" are all theme traps that ignore the contrast between the senator's upbringing and his views. "Bucolic" refers to an idyllic rural life and does not match the sentence.

63. **Protean, quixotic.** The first blank needs an idea that contrasts with "concrete proposal." "Protean" matches nicely. "Oppositional" and "martial" (warlike) don't contrast with "concrete" and so aren't correct. For the second blank, you need a word that also represents the idea of not being "concrete," as well as the idea of being "unlikely to ever come to fruition." "Quixotic" matches perfectly. "Pragmatic" is the exact opposite, and the sentence does not indicate whether the idea is "unorthodox" (against tradition).

64. **An arcadian, hinterland, spartan.** A “refuge” is positive; you also have the clue “quiet and rural.” “Arcadian” conveys a positive view of rural life. “Parochial” (provincial) has a similar meaning except that it is somewhat negative. “Squalid” (dirty and run down) is even worse. The clue for the second blank is the word “but,” which indicates that the “well-heeled” (wealthy) visitors see the region very differently; the sentence requires a negative version of the first blank. “Hinterland” conveys the idea of a backwater or an undesirable place. Neither “asylum” (place of refuge) nor “utopia” (a perfect place) have the required negative spin. The wealthy visitors see life there as “unpleasantly _____,” so a negative word is needed. The only choice that can be negative is “spartan” (simple, austere). “Tony” (posh, stylish) and “rational” are both positive.

65. **Debauchery, licentious.** This sentence features a somewhat complex structure. “Though” indicates that both blanks will oppose “prudish,” since her stories are very different than her life. “Debauchery” (referring to sexual excess) fits the first blank, and “licentious” (lewd or sexually unrestrained) fits the second blank. “Propriety” (proper behavior) and “moralizing” are reversal traps, as they are aligned with prudishness. “Dissent” and “perspicacious” (perceptive) do not match the meaning or structure.

66. **Regressive, an auxiliary.** Given the lengthy explanation of the club’s history, the elderly male member’s suggestion was backwards, or hopelessly old-fashioned. Only “regressive” matches. “Rustic” (rural) and “prudish” (excessively proper or modest) both add something to the description of the old man that is not in the original sentence. In the second blank, you want something that reflects the idea “play bridge and drink tea without having to worry about serious issues.” “Auxiliary” has this sense of secondary or on the side. The word “incendiary” (flammable) is almost an opposite of the desired meaning. Although the proposed organization might be “hierarchical,” there is nothing in the sentence that suggests that.

67. **A deft, whet.** “Although” indicates that the first blank must be something positive or interesting to the students. Only “deft” (skillful) works. “Insidious” (uninteresting) and “effete” (weak or ineffectual) are not positive ways of describing a politician. Despite the fact that the historical figure was so accomplished, he also had old-fashioned views; as a result, the professor hasn’t been able to get the students interested in him. “Whet,” which means stimulate, is the only word that fits. “Tout” is a bit of a trap—the professor could “tout” the historical figure as an interesting thing to learn about, but she can’t “tout” someone’s interest. Similarly, “accrue” means accumulate over

time, which doesn't fit here; although interest (money earned on a loan or bank deposit) can be accumulated over time, people's interest in a topic is not said to accumulate.

68. **Acerbic.** The comedian has a "caustic" (critical or sarcastic) sense of humor. Also, she's polarizing, as some people adore her, and some hate, or "abhor," her. A good word for the blank would mean something like sharp or biting or controversial. "Acerbic" (sharp, sarcastic, or candid in an almost bitter way) is the best choice. "Ample" (big or large) doesn't explain why her wit is so controversial. "Anachronistic" means out of place in time, and "abstruse" means difficult to understand. An "astounding" sense of humor would probably cause everyone to feel the same way about her and so can be eliminated.

69. **Halcyon.** The opposition structure is complicated. "Contrary" followed by "anything but" functions as a double negative, so the blank will agree with the Western-held assumptions about mindfulness. Additionally, a semicolon followed by "while" indicates that the blank will agree with "calm the mind" and oppose "restlessness and doubt." "Mystical," then, does not match the meaning and might be considered a theme trap. "Beneficial" and "benign" both add a negative spin not justified by the the rest of the sentence. "Orthodox" also does not match the meaning. That leaves "halcyon" (calm or joyful) as the best choice.

70. **An anemic.** While anemia is a medical condition, “anemic” as a metaphor means weak or lacking vitality; the job market is weak, so young people are choosing graduate school instead. “Myopia,” or nearsightedness, also makes a good metaphor, but describes people and their decisions. The job market hasn’t been “botched” (who botched it?), and it isn’t “booming” (the sentence says that there aren’t many jobs available). “Educated” is a trap answer; the young people are going to graduate school because the job market is bad, not because the job market is “educated.”

71. **Beholden to, obligations.** “Despite” the fact that the politician was in favor of “campaign finance reform,” he was “_____ corporate interests.” A clear contrast is indicated, but it’s tough to fill in this first blank with this information. Start with the second. His opponent is relatively new to politics so he doesn’t have as many campaign promises, or “obligations,” to “make good on.” It isn’t possible to make good on “dilemmas” or on “affiliations.” In contrast to the new politician, then, the “career politician” must must have had more obligations; in other words, he is “more beholden to corporate interests.” If he were “leery of” these interests, then the word “despite” couldn’t be used at the beginning of the sentence. The sentence doesn’t contain any information to suggest that he is “apathetic about,” or lacking interest in, “corporate interests.”

72. **Diffident, quietly.** The initial “Far too” indicates that the first blank will oppose “limelight” (an old theatrical expression meaning to be in the spotlight) and agree with “unassuming” (shy). “Diffident” (shy or reserved) is a good match and is also a clue for the second blank, which must match the first one; “quietly” is the best choice. Neither “implicitly” nor “skeptically” matches the meaning of shy or reserved. “Ideologically” is a theme trap that ignores the objective clues. “Apathetic” (unenergetic, indifferent) is also a spin trap.

73. **Groaning.** You might feel stuck if the idiom “groan under the strain” isn’t familiar to you, but process of elimination can still work here. The part of the sentence following the colon must be equivalent—either an example or a restatement—to the part before it. The word that fills the blank must make “city infrastructure is already _____ under the strain of excess auto traffic” a good reason to create bike lanes in the city. Since bike lanes would help to relieve the traffic burden, the blank must mean something like struggling. “Groaning,” which is something that a person struggling with a heavy load would do, is used figuratively here. The words “seething” (very angry), “waiting,” “baying” (yelling loudly), and “intensifying” don’t create

an image of a person struggling under a heavy load the way that “groaning” does and so are not correct.

74. Heterodox, iconoclasm, abolition. The first two blanks both describe the professor’s tendencies and should have a similar meaning. The clue for those blanks follows the colon: “she persistently challenged the academic methods and the institutional procedures of her department and of the university as a whole.” For the first blank, “intellectual” is a theme trap. “Illiberal” means narrow-minded and does not describe someone who challenges institutions and established procedures. “Heterodox” (unorthodox or not in accordance with established thought) is a good match. Similarly, for the second blank, “iconoclasm” (opposing established beliefs) fits, while “intelligence” is another theme trap and “theories” does not match the desired meaning. The last blank describes arguing for doing something to “inherently elitist institutions” to democratize education. Since getting rid of universities entirely would have that effect, “abolition” is a great fit. “Enshrinement” (to cherish as sacred) is a reversal trap and “mitigation” (make less severe) is too mild to match the language “going so far as.”

75. **Belies.** The phrase “apparent simplicity” is the clue that indicates that there is more to coffee than meets the eye. This sentence sets up a contrast between the phrases (“apparent simplicity” and “dizzying number of hours of toil”) that are both used to describe coffee; the word that fills the blank must be a contrast word. “Confirms,” “furnishes,” and “fosters” (supports) are all incorrect because those words would be used to connect two phrases that agreed with each other. “Redresses” (corrects or rights a wrong) could be used for an opposite connection but doesn’t fit here because there is no sense that the “simplicity” is correcting all those hours of work. “Belies” (to be at odds with) is most appropriate here.

76. **Unkempt, surprisingly deliberate.** The tricky blank structure masks what is ultimately a not-so-tricky word relationship: that of opposites. The clues for this relationship are the words “notwithstanding” and “if.” The first part of the sentence says that in spite of the clutter of tools lying about, the studio was orderly. The part after the semicolon talks about the décor, and the idiomatic structure “if X, Y” is used to show a similar contrast. The first blank must match “cluttered,” and the second must match “orderly.” The best match for cluttered is “unkempt,” and the better match for orderly is “surprisingly deliberate,” because something that is deliberate is not random and so must have a certain order to it. The words “dire” (dreadful or grim) and “arduous” (difficult) may describe the way some people feel about clutter, but do not describe a cluttered décor. Similarly, “unsophisticated” (simple) and “callous” (uncaring) do not describe an orderly décor.

77. **Heralded, appropriated.** The phrase “equally public” provides a clue that the legislator’s approval was also highly publicized, or “heralded.” “Ratified,” which means officially approved, would be redundant in this context. The sentence does not indicate that anyone “scorned” (rejected or was disdainful of) the approval. The sentence doesn’t provide much of a clue for the second blank. When this happens, only one answer choice will make sense (and usually that correct choice won’t add much to the sentence), while the other, incorrect answer choices will drastically change the meaning. Here, “appropriated,” which means allocated or assigned, fits nicely and doesn’t add any unintended meaning. Neither “stolen” nor “exacerbated” (made worse) is an appropriate description of funding that was approved by a legislature.

78. **Benign, decamped.** The first blank hinges on the meaning of the word “purportedly,” which means pretending to be, or masquerading as. The sentence implies that the bureau is pretending to be harmless, or “benign.” It wouldn’t make sense to say that the bureau pretended that its “inquisitions”

(inquiries or questionings) were “suspicious”; that word is an opposite trap. The sentence does not suggest that the inquisitions were “risqué” (sexually suggestive). The second blank requires a word that means to leave hurriedly; “decamped” fits. The word “immigrated,” though close in meaning, isn’t quite right because it means to arrive at a country or region rather than to leave from it. “Immigrated” is especially tricky because it sounds very similar to the word emigrated, which does mean to leave a country or region and move to another one. “Pandered,” which means indulged another’s desire, is not appropriate in this sentence.

79. **Congenial, erode.** When a relationship goes from something to “chilly at best,” the relationship used to be warm or cordial: “congenial” fits best for the first blank. “Peaceful” doesn’t go far enough, and “reverent” goes too far. If the relationship has gotten worse, then there has been an undermining, or an eroding, of mutual trust. To “bolster” something is to support or to improve it, so this choice is opposite to the desired meaning. “Fester” (not improve and likely get worse over time) is a negative word; something positive, such as “trust,” cannot be said to “fester.” Only something negative, such as a wound or resentment, can be described as “festering.”

80. **Bogus.** “In an age of near-instantaneous fact checking,” politicians need to be careful about what they say, “as” (which means “because” here) “any fictitious claim” will be proved fictitious or false. “Bogus” (not genuine) is an excellent match. “Genuine” is a reversal trap. “Dull” in this context means boring, which, although negative, is not the desired meaning. Neither “unnecessary” nor “unfamiliar” fit the desired meaning either.

81. **Tacky, discerning, tactically.** The judgmental mind behind this sentence finds his grandmother’s décor “vulgar,” so the first blank should be a synonym for that. “Tacky” fits the bill. Neither “vitreous” (made from glass) or “grizzled” (having gray hair) can reasonably describe the grandmother’s decorating scheme. The second blank should be something like appropriate: it wouldn’t be appropriate to tell his grandma what he really thinks. Neither “rancorous” (malevolent) or “doting” (to lavish attention on) fits this meaning. “Discerning,” meaning having or showing good judgment or shrewd, fits perfectly. For the third blank, you need a word that describes being nice to someone in order to get a good birthday present. “Amicable” doesn’t capture the strategy of the idea, but “duplicitous” is way too negative. It means deceitful, which is not really an apt description for the act of refraining from telling your grandma that she has terrible taste. “Tactically,” meaning by way of showing adroit planning, is correct.

82. **Warded off, mutiny.** The second half of the sentence says that the crew became frustrated and “decided to take matters into their own hands,” implying that they took over the ship. “Mutiny” fits perfectly. (A “sea change” is a profound transformation, while “helmsmanship” relates to helmsman, a person who steers a ship.) For the first blank, you need a word implying that the captain tried to fight off the mutiny. “Dissuading” is tempting, but it is something you can do only to people (e.g., I dissuaded the pirates from mutinying). “Warded off” means fended off or averted, which is perfect here. “Depreciated” (to cause to decrease in value) has the wrong meaning.

83. **Serendipitous, dispensations.** A “birth lottery” is offered as an example of the sort of element the first word describes. Since a lottery is random, based on chance, the first blank should be something like “due to luck,” and that is just what “serendipitous” means. Be careful of the trap answer “common.” Although “common element” is a frequently used expression, it does not capture the correct meaning, which is random. “Inchoate” (incipient, only partially in existence) is a good GRE word, but it has the wrong meaning. The second blank looks to be roughly synonymous with gifts. “Dispensations” will work there, while “encumbrances” and “piques” are both negative.

84. **Discriminate, baseless.** The mantis shrimp has more color detecting cells than any other creature. “While one would think” indicates that the common or logical view will turn out to be incorrect. Certainly the logical deduction would be that these shrimp are good at seeing colors, so “discriminate” (which can mean to distinguish accurately) is the best choice for the first blank. The GRE will often use lesser known secondary meanings, as here with “discriminate.” “Distort” is a reversal trap and “improve” does not fit the desired meaning. The second blank should contrast what “one would think.” It turns out that they can’t actually see more colors, so this claim is false, or “baseless” (without basis in fact). “Obvious” and “illiberal” (narrow-minded) do not mean false.

85. **Detractors, vulgar.** “While” indicates that the clause after the comma will oppose the clause before the comma. So instead of supporters, you want opposers. The word “condemned” further hints that the first blank will be something like opposers/condemners. Only “detractors” works. “Interlocutors” (go-betweens) and “contemporaries” (people who lived at the same time) do not fit the desired meaning. For the second blank, you want a description that a detractor would apply to “earthy speech.” So you want earthy, but in a bad way—perhaps coarse or unrefined would serve. The word “vulgar” fits those descriptions. “Obtuse” (unintelligent or ignorant) is negative but does not match the clue “earthy.” In contrast, “genteel” (polite) is almost the opposite of what you want.

86. **Versatile, explicate.** The first blank doesn’t offer much of a clue, beyond the idea that the tools are “sophisticated” (and therefore positive). “Versatile” is the best fit. “Eclectic” (drawing from multiple sources) is neutral, not positive. “Populist” (a member of a political party claiming to represent the interests of the common people) is tricky because it looks similar to popular. Next, the social scientists are using these tools “to model and help _____

even decisions.” “Explicate” (explain) is the best match. “Interpolate” means to estimate an intermediate point between two known points, or to insert new words into a text; decisions cannot be interpolated. Similarly, decisions cannot be extended by assuming that existing trends will continue, so “extrapolate” doesn’t fit either.

87. **Robust.** The bacteria that survive antibiotics would presumably be those hardest to kill. You might also want a word that means something like drug-resistant. The only word that means anything like hard-to-kill is “robust.” “Widespread,” “immature,” and “benign” (not harmful) do not indicate that the bacteria are inherently harder to kill. Although “notorious” (well known for something bad) is tempting, a “notorious” bacteria is not necessarily hard to kill; it could just be particularly infectious or toxic.

188. **Prodigies.** These very intelligent children actually do “fulfill their early promise,” so the blank should indicate that they really are talented in some way. Such children are “prodigies.” Although “teenagers” is tempting because children become teenagers, the sentence says that the children “go on to fulfill their early promise,” implying that they lead extraordinary lives, and teenager-hood is only a short part of someone’s life. The other answers, “cranks,” “theorizers,” and “pragmatists” (practical people), are not supported by the sentence.

89. **Heuristic, represent.** The first word is defined in the sentence as a device useful for “inciting and guiding discovery.” That’s one of the meanings of “heuristic,” which is the correct answer. A “literary device” is a common expression and so sounds good, but the meaning is wrong because a “literary device” is a technique used in writing to produce a specific effect. An “allegorical” (symbolic or metaphorical) device is a specific type of “literary device” and so doesn’t work either. If you are not meant to take the “model of the psyche” as a guide to the physical structure of the brain, then you want a word that means something like show or depict for the second blank. “Represent” is the closest choice. The word “dictate” is incorrect because a model of the brain doesn’t determine the physical form of the brain. “Ameliorate” (make a bad thing better) also does not fit the desired meaning.

90. **Technical, diffident.** Since the “medium ... lacked a voice,” the technology of the day prevented Lloyd from speaking on film, so the first word should be something like technological. “Technical” will do. Neither “artistic” nor “commercial” describes the limits of films that lacked a voice. The second blank requires an adjective that would explain why a character would fail to speak, perhaps something like mute. “Diffident” means something like self-effacing or very shy and very shy people are often somewhat reluctant to speak; this is the best choice. “Reluctant” is a trap answer—it does not mean reluctant to speak (the similar-sounding reticent does, and the two words are often confused). “Avant-garde” (developing new or experimental artistic concepts) does not fit the desired meaning.

91. **Skeptical.** Follow the structure to unravel this sentence. The part before the semicolon says that the boss was considered a “figurehead.” However, people slowly realized that he was actually getting a lot of stuff done! The employees were initially critical or doubtful; the best match among the answers is “skeptical.” The other four answers, “senior,” “clueless,” “resolute” (determined), and “scrutinized” (closely observed) do not match the meaning.

92. **Scarcity, regional, staff.** “Critics” are complaining about something related to “a _____ of unique viewpoints.” The sentence indicates that the “conglomerates will often discuss the same issues and talking points across all platforms,” so there is a lack of, or “scarcity,” of differing viewpoints. Neither “banality” (boring, ordinary) nor “deviation” (different from the norm) fits the desired meaning. The sentence also indicates that there is “a lack of local news coverage,” so local “events are no longer covered by smaller media.” The best match for local is “regional.” “Domestic” is a good

trap, but when applied to locations, this word typically refers to an entire country (domestic vs. international). “Elaborate” does not mean local. Finally, the smaller media groups can’t afford to hire, or “staff,” enough employees. “Imply” is a trap because it sounds very close to employ. “Broadcast” seems to go along with media, but does not fit the desired meaning of this blank.

93. **Attest to, quotidian.** “Just as ... so too ... ” suggests that the mainstream novels show a gift, just as the science-fiction novels do. The first word should mean something like show, or display. Among these answers, only “attest” has that meaning. Incorrect choices “belie” and “gainsay” both indicate an opposite direction. The second word should describe the world of mainstream, rather than science-fiction, novels: something not fantastic, but just ordinary or everyday. “Quotidian” has just that meaning. “Fantastical” (odd and bizarre) and “ebullient” (cheerful and exuberant) don’t, in general, describe the ordinary, everyday world.

94. **Solvent.** If a company is far from “flourishing” (prospering), it is not doing well, even if the report “avers” (swears) that it is. “Solvent” means profitable; a “not profitable” company is definitely not doing well. “Thriving” is very tempting but ignores the expression “let alone flourishing.” The correct use of the expression “not X, let alone Y” requires that X be at a lower level or be an intermediate step towards Y, as in “The paper was not even comprehensible, let alone informative.” Since “thriving” is on the same level as “flourishing,” it can’t logically be used here. “Copious” (detailed), “evasive,” and “unprecedented” don’t fit with “let alone flourishing” either.

95. **Supplants, contemptible.** “Requisite” means made necessary by circumstances or regulation, so “a requisite amount of regulatory pressure” is the normal, suitable, or necessary amount of pressure on “a business.” But what does *this* business do? Regarding “pressure” about “industry safety standards,” the business [does something to] “its own non-compliance ... with yet another series of suspect omissions.” The blanks must make the sentence generally read this way: A business that [replaces or substitutes = blank (i)] bad safety standards with “yet another” set of bad safety standards is very [bad = blank (ii)]. “Supplants” is a synonym for replaces and “contemptible” means despicable or deplorable, so these choices fit. “Imbue” means inspire or permeate with some characteristic or feeling. “Non-compliance” could be said to be imbued with “omissions” of compliance, but “yet another” separates and distinguishes the “omissions” from the original “non-compliance”; the context and structure of the sentence make this choice wrong. “Verifies” is too positive in the first blank and “laudable,” or worthy of praise, is too positive in the second blank. There is no indication in the sentence that a business that behaves this way is “contrived,” which means unrealistic or artificially created.

96. **Draconian.** “Belied” means contradicted or was at odds with. Thus, the boss’s on-the-job style is contradicted by his “amiable,” or warm, friendly style in the interview. The clue is that the young hire (the new employee) experiences “chagrin,” which is mental distress or unease. “Draconian,” which means harsh, strict, or severe, is best. Don’t be confused by “nonplussed,” the primary meaning of which is confused or surprised—it doesn’t capture the boss’s strictness. The answer “friendly” is a trap for anyone who doesn’t notice the word “belied” earlier in the sentence. “Fatuous” (silly and pointless) is a great GRE word, but doesn’t match the intended meaning. “Illicit” (illegal) goes too far: there is nothing in the sentence to suggest that the boss is behaving illegally.

97. **An exhaustive, remarkable variance.** The first blank is tricky; start with the second one. “Fluctuations” cause the “most reliable” wines to be something like unpredictable. Only “remarkable variance” fits. “Taxonomy” is a classification system and “mitigating circumstances” are circumstances that make something less severe or serious. If even the “reliable vintages” exhibit a large variance, then it must be difficult to have full, or “exhaustive,” comprehension of Italian wines. “Futile” (ineffective) and “irredeemable” (unable to be saved or helped) do not fit the desired meaning.

98. **Casual nonchalance, farce.** If the clerk treats his office (a fancy way to say his job) with a general lack of respect, then he treats his clients with a similarly cool and distant manner, a manner of “casual nonchalance.” “Meticulous” (careful and precise) is positive and “envy” is not indicated by the sentence. As for the second blank, knowing that “grand farce” is a common English idiom is helpful but is not essential—the word “farce,” or mockery, is the only word that fits. A “grand gesture” would be positive (a “grand gesture” would be something like an elaborate marriage proposal, apology, etc.), and it is not possible to treat one’s entire job like a “grand tirade” (angry speech).

99. **Engaging, a tired.** Since the critics viewed the book negatively, as evidenced by “dry pedantry” (a rigid overemphasis on rules or details) and “humorless presentation,” the author must have turned an interesting topic into a tedious one. Thus, the first blank will be positive in tone and the second negative. “Engaging” matches the tone and content. “Affectless,” meaning showing a lack of emotion or sympathy, and “dogmatic,” meaning opinionated or doctrinal, do not match the positive tone needed for the first blank. Similarly, for the second blank, only “a tired” matches the required negative tone; “a worthy” is positive and “an instructive” is neutral.

100. **Rife with contention, critical, seasoned practitioners.** This problem is best solved starting from the last blank. Certain “tenets” (principles important to a group of people) are not necessarily accepted as fact (“gospel”) even by those who really believe in the practice of psychoanalysis. These people are “seasoned practitioners,” experienced in psychoanalysis. “Quarrelsome factions” are the opposite of the intended meaning and while “beneficiaries” could work, the sentence does not provide any clues to justify use of the word “esteemed.” Next, move to the second blank. The experts may question “even tenets” that are deemed central to the overall philosophy. The best match is “critical” (crucial). “Immaterial” (unimportant) and “anathema,” used to describe something that is cursed or loathed, do not fit the idea of something that is crucial to the philosophy. Finally, the second sentence provides the necessary clues for the first blank: psychoanalysis is a subject of debate even among those who practice it; it is “rife with contention.” The practitioners do not “ridicule” it or find it “devoid of substance” (lacking substance). Rather, they disagree with some of the principles even as they continue to follow the overall philosophy.

101. **Antipathy, patent, mutual benefit.** The first and third blanks are highly related, so consider them first. “Apparent antagonism” exists between two people; are they really so hostile to one another? The two individuals also “derive inspiration and motivation from the other.” In other words, there is a “mutual benefit” to the seemingly hostile relationship, which otherwise might be “written off” as pure hatred, or “antipathy.” Neither “flagrancy” (the act of being flagrant, offensive) nor “hypocrisy” fits the meaning of hatred. For the third blank, both “worthless pride” and “tacit disagreement” are negative in nature; they do not convey a “benefit.” Now return to the second blank. The “apparent antagonism” can be “written off,” so “further scrutiny should render” clear or apparent the fact that there is actually a positive to this “rivalry.” The best fit is “patent” (obvious, evident). “Useless” and “spurious” (not genuine, insincere) do not fit the desired meaning.

102. **Hyperboles.** The answer must match the clues “flights of fancy” and “arching far beyond reality.” “Hyperbole” is exaggeration and is the correct answer. “Tit for tat” (retaliation in kind), “parables” (stories with morals), “conundrums” (difficult questions), and “innuendos” (hint or insinuation, often negative) do not fit this meaning.

103. **Initially, given teeth.** First, or “initially,” the law in question “had little impact,” but “subsequent legislation” changed this. “Justifiably” and “unbelievably” are value judgments that are not supported by the rest of the sentence. In the second blank, you need something that will contrast with having little impact and will match the idea of a law now gaining “funding and enforcement.” Only “given teeth” has this (metaphorical) meaning. “Rendered moot” and “kept at bay” go against the desired meaning.

104. **Counterpoint.** The blank requires a word that means having two distinct components, since the opera is capable of evoking two distinct emotions. “Counterpoint” (use of contrast in a work of art) is a good fit. “Macabre” is a trap, since it goes along with horror but leaves out joy. “Articulate” is related to speech and does not fit here. “Contrived” (not natural, planned) and “figurative” (using metaphor or other non-literal device to convey meaning) are not supported by any clues in the sentence

105. **Buttress.** “Buttress,” as a noun or a verb, relates to support and is therefore justified by the clue “needed additional support.” Note that you certainly do not need to memorize architectural terms for the GRE, but you should definitely know the metaphorical meaning of buttress (to support). A “partition” is tempting, but the purpose of such a feature is to divide or separate two things, not necessarily to support something. An “albatross” is a bird but is also used metaphorically to mean an ongoing problem. While “hallmark” and “trademark” can be synonyms, they don’t mean to support.

106. **Veracity, consistent with.** No single experiment can ever prove the truth, or “veracity,” of a theory. “Rationality” is close but connotes the idea of the theory being logical, rather than factual. “Candor” (honest and direct communication) is incorrect because the theory is not telling the truth; rather, a theory is true (or is not true). For the second blank, in order for the theory to be supported, or “resilient,” the results from independent labs should agree with each other, or be “consistent with” each other. The results don’t have to be “founded on” or “antithetical to” (opposed to) each other in order for the theory to be supported.

107. **Pertinent, deeply humbling.** Sleep is important, or relevant, to your daily life, making “pertinent” the best word for the first blank. The explanation in general may be “mysterious” or “obscure,” but the topic is not “mysterious” or “obscure” “to our daily lives.” Regarding the second blank, the expression “at once fascinating and _____” indicates at least a loose contrast, so you need something that could contrast with “fascinating.” The clue “so ignorant” is a good indication that what you want is “deeply humbling.” Don’t fall for the trap answer “fully impenetrable.” While the topic of sleep is presented as somewhat impenetrable (that is, hard to understand), the blank is not describing sleep, but rather human ignorance about it. “Totally blatant,” which means obvious or not at all hidden, doesn’t describe human ignorance about sleep either.

108. **Waxed, barely stirred.** There is a discrepancy or mismatch between Mozart’s fame and his financial situation, so whatever happened to one did not happen to the other. The clue “beyond measure” indicates that his musical star must have grown, so “waxed” is the only possibility for the first blank; “abated” and “dwindled” both mean to get smaller. Mozart’s income must have either gone down or remained low; “barely stirred” is the correct answer for the second blank. It could not be the case that his income “grew exponentially” or “remained exorbitant,” or there would be no discrepancy.

109. **Assent.** While the structure might seem tricky, the blank must oppose

“refusing for a decade” since the patriarch finally “surrendered.” “Assent” is the best choice because it means agreement. “Ascent” (climb up), “dissent” (disagreement), and “descent” (climb down) do not fit the text and are essentially phonetic tricks. “Assertion” does not fit because he cannot “give his assertion.” Rather, he would “assert” something.

110. **Peril, simulacrum, terrifies.** “Even” suggests that the first blank describes the sort of thing you might otherwise expect a thrill seeker to find attractive. These patrons do not want “danger,” so you could just reuse that word for the first blank. “Peril” is the best choice. Although “titillation” does describe a sort of thrill, it is not negative, nor does it suggest danger. “Lavishness” suggests luxury, not danger, and so does not fit either. The third word is probably easier to anticipate than the second, so skip ahead. “In fact” suggests that you want a word that means seems to be unsafe, and the description of the “thrill-seeking visitors” suggests that you want something, well, thrilling. “Terrifies” is the closest choice. “Satisfies” yields a perfectly fine sentence, but it does not contrast with “perfectly safe.” “Mollifies,” which means to sooth or pacify, is the opposite of what the thrill seekers want. The second blank, then, requires something like imitation, and “simulacrum” is the closest synonym among the answers. Using a “complement” here

would imply something that partners with danger, which doesn't match the meaning of imitation of danger. Similarly, an "abettor" of danger would be an aid or a helper, which doesn't fit the intended meaning either.

111. **Dilettantes, apprenticeship.** The first word should indicate an opposite of "professionals." The word that suggests itself is amateurs, and the closest answer to that is "dilettantes," which is roughly synonymous with dabblers. "Artisans" (skilled craftspeople) is a reversal trap and "ideologues" (uncompromising advocates of an ideology) is a great GRE vocabulary word that does not fit the meaning of this sentence. The second word should suggest a type of training, and among the options only "apprenticeship" does so. "Acumen" (sharp insight) and "sensibility" are not types of training.

112. **Arresting, charismatic.** The first singer is good "but" she is not as good as the next singer; the first blank requires a positive word. Only "arresting" (impressive) fits. Both "unremarkable" and "hackneyed" (trite or unoriginal) are negative. If the first singer is not as good, then the second singer is better, so the latter's stage presence must be much better. "Pedestrian" (unremarkable) doesn't fit, but both "charismatic" and "experienced" are fairly positive words. Here, there are two ways to eliminate "experienced." First, while you might call the singer herself "experienced," the target of this blank is the singer's "stage presence," which cannot be properly described as "experienced." Second, "arresting," the correct choice for blank (i), aligns very well with a "charismatic" stage presence.

113. **Confounding, acumen.** The "contradictions in the philosopher's life were more _____" given that the philosopher had some characteristic that led to "profound insights," meaning a very deep understanding or awareness. Since the second blank is that characteristic, start there. Although "prodigal" is often used to mean extravagant, here it means something more like abundant. The second blank must mean something like skill then, because a high level of intellectual skill would logically lead to deep understanding, and the first blank must mean surprising, because it would be surprising if someone who was very skilled at making good judgments had a lot of contradictions in his life. The correct answer to the first blank is "confounding," which means surprising. "Insightful" and "unpremeditated" are words associated with thought, but they do not fit the desired meaning for the first blank. The correct answer for the second blank, "acumen," is the skill of making good judgements. "Vacuity," which means empty-headedness, is the exact opposite of what is needed. "Veracity" means truthfulness, which is tempting, but doesn't quite fit with the clue. A truthful person is not

necessarily going to have deep insights.

114. **Eminence, influence.** Borrowing another word from the sentence, the first word should be something like “significance.” The closest option is “eminence,” which suggests great importance. If Hopper argues that the book was among the most important in spite of the fact that it cannot have had an impact on O’Brien’s contemporaries, then he must appeal to some standard other than impact. “Influence” is the word most nearly synonymous with impact. Because “currency” echoes the concern about how widely read the book was, it might appeal, but this word does not fit the earlier clue; he “appeals to standards other than” the one mentioned earlier, “impact on one’s contemporaries.” Finally, “dissolution” (dissolving or ending something) is not a type of standard.

115. **Denigrate, balkanized.** Start with the second blank. A society with “class warfare” is divided into hostile groups, or “balkanized,” but it need not be either “socialized” or “politicized.” Politicians who “refuse to accept” such talk would tend to dismiss or belittle, or “denigrate,” it. “Besmirch” means to attack the honor of something—although the word is negative, it isn’t quite appropriate here. “Encourage” is a reversal trap: since the sentence says that the politicians do not believe that society is experiencing “class warfare,” they would not urge people to discuss it.

116. **Deftness, peasant, dissembled.** The subject “magically acquired an honorific title” and he was able to “parlay this charade into a small fortune.” These hints suggest that his motive was to make himself look and sound more important than he actually was. Blank (i) and blank (ii) contrast how he was able to get away with this trick: because of his “aquiline,” meaning regal, nose and his social tendencies, and despite his genetics. The best fit for blank (i) is “deftness,” which means skilled or clever. The other options here both suggest something negative about his social abilities, be it “arrogance,” meaning conceit, or “maladroitness,” meaning ineffective or clumsy, the opposite of the meaning needed here. Blank (ii) describes his “genetics, which lacked any distinction.” The best match is “peasant,” or a farm worker with little social status. “Perturbing” is too negative in this context. And “patrician,” which means characteristic of aristocracy, is the opposite of what the blank requires. Finally, blank (iii) calls for a word that indicates how he “successfully” was able to act in order “to parlay this charade into a small fortune.” Of the answer choices, “coalesced” means to combine distinct elements, which does not fit in this context. Likewise, “disseminated” means to spread or disperse something, and also doesn’t fit here. “Dissembled” (disguise or conceal) fits best: he successfully disguised his true identity.

117. **An ironclad.** Since the final part of the sentence is meant to go against the idea that the Second Amendment provides a guarantee of a private right, you need to fill the blank in the first part with something that reinforces the guarantee. “Ironclad” means rigid or fixed and does what you need here. “Defeasible” and “questionable” would undermine the guarantee. Nothing in the passage has any bearing on whether the guarantee is “earnest.” “Amended” is a theme trap because the sentence is talking about the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, but “amended” means added to and does not fit the desired meaning for the blank.

118. **Sophistry.** The sentence indicates that Lillian Hellman was being honest when calling her disingenuous, or deceitful, argumentative strategy “the nobility racket.” The fact that she calls the deceitful strategy a “racket” indicates that she doesn’t truly believe in the things she states while using this argumentative strategy. Therefore, the word that best fills the blank is “sophistry,” which means the use of fallacious arguments, often with the intent to deceive others. If someone espoused a “philosophy,” she would actually believe in what she was saying. “Sinecure” (a position that requires little work but provides financial benefit), “volubility” (talkativeness), and “serendipity” (fortunate accident) do not fit the desired meaning.

119. **Undermined.** The fitness guru seems to promote a healthy lifestyle (“salubrious” means healthy). On the other hand, when he’s alone, he’s not very healthy himself. These actions would do something like “corrupt” or “do bad things to” his integrity. The correct answer, “undermined,” means to reduce the power of, undercut, or sabotage. He’s not making fun of himself, so “ridiculed” doesn’t quite work. “Restored” is the opposite of the intended meaning. “Redacted” means to draft or make ready for publication. The guru did not “insinuate,” or subtly suggest, anything about his integrity.

120. **Disquieting, casualty.** The sentence claims that there are “unexploded World War II munitions,” or bombs, buried in places where people live. This could be upsetting, dangerous, or some other negative word. Of the given options, “disquieting” (disturbing) fits. “Exhilarating” (exciting) is positive and “demeaning” (belittling or disdainful), while negative, does not match the meaning of the sentence. The situation is disturbing because someone could become a victim, or “casualty,” of an old war. It wouldn’t be disturbing to become a “hero” and “martyr” (someone who suffers or is killed for a cause) doesn’t fit the intended meaning of an accidental death.

121. **Dauntless, trepidation, peril.** The first part of the sentence says that even “perennially,” or enduringly, _____ reporters have had misgivings about entering a war zone. Since war zones are dangerous, the first blank is likely filled by a word that describes people who don’t usually worry about danger. “Dauntless” and “professional” could both fit; “foreign” does not. The part after the semicolon says that “their [the reporters] _____ at the prospect” of entering a war zone must be a reflection of the _____ that “pervades,” or spreads through, a war zone. People in a war zone are in danger and likely scared, not necessarily “professional,” so the first blank must mean not scared, or “dauntless,” the second blank must mean fear, and the third blank must mean fear or danger. The correct answer for the second blank, “trepidation” or sense of fear, fits perfectly. “Excitement” and “skepticism” don’t mean fear. The correct answer for the third blank, “peril,” means danger and so also fits perfectly. Although “awareness” is tempting because “heightened awareness” is often associated with dangerous situations, the meaning is wrong because fear is not “a reflection of the heightened awareness”; rather, “heightened awareness” is a result of fear. “Rhetoric,” or persuasive speaking, is a great GRE word, but has the wrong meaning for the third blank.

122. **Practiced restraint, asceticism, permissive.** The word “however” in the second sentence indicates that Jean—who “exercises a self-discipline”—is very different from most teenagers. Therefore, teenagers are not associated with self-discipline. For blank (i), the phrase that most closely matches is “practiced restraint.” “Silent obedience” doesn’t quite match and “urbanity” means polite, confident, or polished. For blank (ii), the idiom “verges on” indicates that the word will mean some extreme form of self-discipline. The best word for that is “asceticism” (a lifestyle of extreme self-denial). “Asperity” (harshness in tone or temper) is tempting but usually refers more to emotions or weather conditions. For blank (iii), the words “whether” and “or” indicate that the blank will describe the opposite of a “conservative upbringing.” The best match is “permissive.” Jean might want to react to a “meddlesome,” or very intrusive, upbringing, but it’s not the opposite of conservative. Don’t be tempted by “illiberal,” which means narrow-minded or bigoted.

123. **Dissolute, damage, carefully cultivated.** The actor had some kind of behavior, but “unexpectedly” it “did little to _____ his reputation as a family man.” The first two blanks must contrast and should be selected together. If his behavior was “dissolute,” it was lax in morals, and thus surprising that it “did little to damage his reputation.” While negative,

“impudent” (impertinent or disrespectful) behavior isn’t necessarily the same or the opposite of “family man” behavior. “Paternal” is exactly like fatherly, or “family man” behavior, so it would be unexpected only if “paternal behavior did little to help his reputation,” but no such meaning exists among the blank (ii) choices. “Assuage” means to make something less painful or severe, while “temper” means to neutralize or alleviate; both unjustly imply that “his reputation as a family man” is something unpleasant. The last blank is what “his exceptionally skilled team of publicists” did to his reputation: they “carefully cultivated,” or tried to develop (a quality, sentiment, or skill) his reputation. The team is “his,” so they shouldn’t work against his reputation, as both “cleverly subverted” (undermined) and “easily refuted” (discredited) would.

124. Ubiquitous, maladies, preventable. The information between the dashes provides extra information about the word just before: “fresh produce has become” available everywhere. The best match is “ubiquitous” (existing everywhere). Neither “salubrious” (healthful) or “comestible” (edible) fits the required meaning. For the second blank “were once the inevitable result of nutritional deficiencies,” diseases, or “maladies,” fits. Neither “reactions” nor “cultivars” (cultivated plants) would be “the inevitable result of nutritional deficiencies.” Finally, these once “inevitable” diseases are now mostly avoidable because people have better access to fresh produce. The best match is “preventable.” “Organic” and “dietetic” (relating to the diet) are both related to food but don’t match the meaning of “avoidable.”

125. **Hardline, loath.** The sentence is tricky; you may need to fill the two blanks at the same time. Perhaps the senator is not willing to “strike a concessionary tone” or perhaps she is not reluctant to strike such a tone; which meaning is correct? “Concessionary” is the act of conceding a point, so the senator must have a particular position that differs from her opponents. If, in spite of “her _____ position,” she is not reluctant to concede a point, then her position must be quite strong, or “hardline.” If, on the other hand, she is not willing to concede anything, then her position must be middle-of-the-road or undetermined. No choice fits this meaning, so “hardline” is the correct answer for the first blank. The sentence does not provide clues to tell whether her position is “conservative” or liberal. “Fiduciary” (relating to trust, especially with financial matters) does not fit here. For the second blank, the senator was ultimately not unwilling, or not “loath” to concede a point. “Not permitted” would refer to someone else restricting her; the sentence doesn’t indicate this. “Not qualified” implies an outside value judgment; again, the sentence doesn’t indicate this.

126. **A paradox in, infirmity.** The colon in this sentence indicates that the second part is somehow equivalent to or an example of what is described in the first part. Although the duty of medical workers is to “maintain the health of their patients,” they earn money from their patients’ _____. The second blank must be a word that is opposed to “health,” such as illness. “Infirmity” (weakness, frailty) is a match; neither “inattentiveness” (lack of attention) or “uncertainty” fits this meaning. The first blank must be describing this contrast, or “paradox.” Neither “a protest against” nor “an aversion to” describes a contrast.

127. **Focused on, expanded, include.** The sentence contrasts early and later work in the field of spectroscopy: “early work” had something to do with “visible light,” while later work had something to do with “any and all interactions” of a certain type. The two blanks likely need to be filled together, so scan the answers. The options for the second blank are fairly similar: they all mean some form of “broadened” or “changed.” If the later work broadened or changed something for “any and all interactions,” then the earlier work must have been more narrow in scope. The best pairing is “focused on” and “expanded”: the early work “focused on” a more narrow area, while the later work “expanded” to “include” more interactions. For the first blank, “contrasted with” and “arose from” do not pair with the idea of broadened or changed to create a contrast between the first two blanks. For the second, “transformed” and “amended” both mean changed; “expanded” is a better match for the contrast with the first blank. Finally, “affirm” (assert,

declare) and “endure” do not fit the full phrase: “the concept was expanded to affirm any and all interactions” or “the concept was expanded to endure any and all interactions.”

128. **Permissiveness.** The “while” that starts this sentence sets up a contrast: Abdul is worried that he’s being too “lax,” or easy-going; this same laxness is why his kids love him so much. “Permissiveness” (providing a lot of freedom, possibly too much) matches this meaning. “Complacency” (self-satisfaction), “satisfaction,” and “equanimity” (calmness) don’t mean easy-going, and “sternness” (very serious, expressing disapproval) is the opposite.

Chapter 4

Sentence Equivalence

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Sentence Equivalence

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.

1. While the colonists would eventually push westward, first, they were in for a long, difficult winter, and the main challenge was to _____ their existing resources.

- ☐ sell
- ☐ peddle
- ☐ steward
- ☐ upend
- ☐ husband
- ☐ procure

2. James Joyce, the author of many novels, including *Finnegans Wake*, saw deeply into the hearts of his characters, but, in a life irony as subtle yet piercing as those endured by his characters, he himself could barely _____ text well enough to proof his own galleys.

- ☐ see
- ☐ feel
- ☐ walk
- ☐ move
- ☐ distinguish
- ☐ interpret

3. At work, she is far less _____ than she is around her friends, but from time to time her staff sees her in a volatile state.

- ☐ pretentious
- ☐ capricious
- ☐ informal
- ☐ fickle
- ☐ direct
- ☐ explicit

4. Forty years ago, anthropologists firmly believed that Neanderthals and modern *homo sapiens* had never mated, but advances in genetic testing have since proven that incorrect—such is the _____ nature of science.

- ☐ fallacious
- ☐ evolving
- ☐ counterfactual
- ☐ advancing
- ☐ vacillating
- ☐ indeterminable

5. The music of the late '70s is often described as _____, despite the notable exception of a few innovators in the budding punk and hip-hop scenes.

- ☐ derivative
- ☐ trite
- ☐ inspired
- ☐ visionary
- ☐ enigmatic
- ☐ cerebral

6. A field trip was arranged so that this troupe of _____ dancers could observe the real masters of their art.

- ☐ seasoned
- ☐ fledgling
- ☐ expert
- ☐ torpid
- ☐ novice
- ☐ lithe

7. The exhibit is not so much a retrospective as a _____; the artist's weaker, early work is glossed over, and any evidence of his ultimate dissolution is absent entirely.

- ☐ paean
- ☐ polemic
- ☐ tirade

☐ panacea

☐ tribute

☐ critique

8. After a long, hard practice in the summer sun, the players were visibly _____ .

- ☐ flagging
- ☐ hale
- ☐ lissome
- ☐ loathsome
- ☐ vigorous
- ☐ enervated

9. Nothing evoked memories of her grandmother's house like the _____ of scents associated with the variety of dishes at the holiday feast.

- ☐ paucity
- ☐ anomaly
- ☐ medley
- ☐ mélange
- ☐ dearth
- ☐ rarity

10. Unlike the politician's earlier evasions and equivocations, this latest statement is _____ lie.

- ☐ a bald
- ☐ a tacit
- ☐ an overt
- ☐ a didactic
- ☐ a rhetorical
- ☐ an implicit

11. Possessed of a lighthearted approach to life, Winnie thought that those who were _____ in regards to values and mores missed out on a certain liveliness and spontaneity.

- ☐ lax
- ☐ equable
- ☐ priggish
- ☐ auspicious

☐ impious

☐ punctilious

12. Where gay and lesbian individuals and couples were once ignored, at best, by mainstream media and marketing companies, they are now being _____ as the new frontier in consumer spending.

- ☐ touted
- ☐ subverted
- ☐ revered
- ☐ scrutinized
- ☐ promoted
- ☐ predicted

13. For most of the 20th century, American political contentions reflected pragmatic rather than ideological differences; candidate debates centered around whether programs were _____ .

- ☐ partisan
- ☐ voluble
- ☐ feasible
- ☐ innocuous
- ☐ prejudiced
- ☐ viable

14. Though considered a somewhat somber drama at the time of its release in 1975, the film *Shampoo*, about a philandering hairdresser, now seems more the _____ comedy.

- ☐ puckish
- ☐ inhibited
- ☐ prurient
- ☐ wry
- ☐ dated
- ☐ puritanical

15. With almost 40 titles to her name, the popular novelist has _____ imagination and is never at a loss for new ideas, though the quality of her works is far from consistent.

- ☐ a prolix
- ☐ a prolific

☐ an exemplary

☐ a fecund

☐ an ingenious

☐ a profligate

16. Representative government arose in part from dissatisfaction with too many monarchs making _____ decisions without regard for precedents.

- ☐ capricious
- ☐ considered
- ☐ malicious
- ☐ pessimistic
- ☐ insidious
- ☐ erratic

17. Because the Lewis and Clark expedition through the West was conceived primarily as a mapping project, government officials were _____ by the wealth of information on a myriad of topics that the explorers gathered.

- ☐ aggravated
- ☐ flabbergasted
- ☐ crushed
- ☐ bedazzled
- ☐ bored
- ☐ disappointed

18. Many people erroneously believe that humans are naturally _____ to distrust or even fear those outside of their social or cultural group; anthropologists and social scientists, however, have consistently shown that xenophobia is a learned behavior.

- ☐ indoctrinated
- ☐ proven
- ☐ prone
- ☐ disposed
- ☐ taught
- ☐ compelled

19. Geneticists find Iceland a living laboratory for the study of _____ because virtually all of its current 300,000 citizens descend from less than a thousand Icelanders who survived the medieval Black Death.

- ☐ diversity

- ☐ revivification
- ☐ therapy
- ☐ history
- ☐ mutation
- ☐ rejuvenation

20. Given the influx of information via social media, the only way that a person can function effectively is to _____, to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff.

- ☐ delete
- ☐ triage
- ☐ prioritize
- ☐ respond
- ☐ requite
- ☐ eliminate

21. Although accommodating in person, George Orwell _____ defended his political positions in print.

- ☐ tenaciously
- ☐ obsequiously
- ☐ inadvertently
- ☐ doggedly
- ☐ sycophantically
- ☐ idiosyncratically

22. Although historically, paints were often tinted with toxic elements such as lead, cadmium, and mercury, _____ number of painters lived to be seventy, eighty, and even ninety.

- ☐ an incomprehensible
- ☐ a flabbergasting
- ☐ an impossible
- ☐ a confounding
- ☐ a dismaying
- ☐ an enlightening

23. The phrase “gilding the lily” is a late 19th-century expression that was first coined to describe the ostentatious gestures of some of the newly rich, such as applying gold gilt to the carved lilies on the entrances of their Beaux Arts homes; it still serves as a shorthand for any _____ and showy behavior.

- ☐ gauche

- ☐ eccentric
- ☐ idiosyncratic
- ☐ prosperous
- ☐ affluent
- ☐ uncouth

24. While she still advocated for the wholesale restructuring of society based on principles of equity and sustainability, the radical blogger-turned-essayist had to _____ the expression of her views in order to appeal to the more middle-of-the-road sensibilities of the publishing market.

- ☐ abridge
- ☐ moderate
- ☐ amalgamate
- ☐ undermine
- ☐ galvanize
- ☐ temper

25. A “Mycenaean waist” refers to the taut, impossibly small waists characteristic of people depicted in certain ancient drawings found on Crete, and it certainly does not _____ any characteristic of most people in modern, overweight Western societies.

- ☐ deify
- ☐ depict
- ☐ denigrate
- ☐ mirror
- ☐ defame
- ☐ distort

26. The commentator’s analysis of the recent conflict was anything but _____ ; he parroted his ideological compatriots, adding nothing new or insightful to the discussion.

- ☐ novel
- ☐ derivative
- ☐ tendentious
- ☐ fresh
- ☐ evenhanded
- ☐ hackneyed

27. In uncertain times, _____ theories often gain greater and faster adherence among the populace than proven ones do.

- ☐ corroborated

- ☐ putative
- ☐ conjectural
- ☐ incorrect
- ☐ irrefutable
- ☐ irreconcilable

28. Each civil engineer in the firm acted as _____ the others: no one submitted a construction project proposal if another expressed concerns about either the feasibility of the project or the cost estimates.

- ☐ a go between for
- ☐ a reviewer for
- ☐ an estimator for
- ☐ a negotiator for
- ☐ a hindrance to
- ☐ an overseer to

29. Arthur Conan Doyle's upstanding hero Sherlock Holmes engages in just as much clever deception as his nemesis, Professor Moriarty, proving that _____ is not inherently evil.

- ☐ immorality
- ☐ brilliance
- ☐ cunning
- ☐ subterfuge
- ☐ wrongdoing
- ☐ judgment

30. The etymologies of the words *alpha* and *omega* couldn't be more different; the former is obscure—the original symbol for *alpha* was an ox's head, and an ox is '*alp* in Phoenician—while the latter is _____, as *omega* simply means "big O."

- ☐ transparent
- ☐ complicated
- ☐ overt
- ☐ erudite
- ☐ abstruse
- ☐ scholarly

31. While the muted colors do suggest a certain sobriety, the overall effect is undeniably _____.

- ☐ vivacious
- ☐ poignant

- ☐ dull
- ☐ lackluster
- ☐ mirthful
- ☐ benign

32. Although the system's _____ is not currently in dispute at the national level, increasing local allegations of preferential treatment are threatening to change the situation.

- ☐ unfairness
- ☐ solemnity
- ☐ probity
- ☐ equity
- ☐ partiality
- ☐ solicitousness

33. Response to the provocative proposal was predictably _____: little care was given to the concealment of dislike for its aims or scorn for its authors.

- ☐ inscrutable
- ☐ polemical
- ☐ iconoclastic
- ☐ scathing
- ☐ fictitious
- ☐ impenetrable

34. The prime minister affected empathy for the impoverished citizenry, but most economic historians believe that her austerity measures, which were unduly _____, further injured them.

- ☐ arduous
- ☐ commercial
- ☐ mercantilist
- ☐ onerous
- ☐ strict
- ☐ venal

35. While traveling to the spa's remote location could be hectic, visitors more than made up for the stress by unwinding in a supremely _____ environment.

- ☐ effusive
- ☐ pacific

☐ elegant

☐ luxurious

☐ placid

☐ blithe

36. The man looked much older than his 70 years, his _____ frame looking as though it had endured at least 40 years in the desert; although the casting director had initially pictured a more physically robust Moses, the actor was, in the end, perfect for the role.

- ☐ fetid
- ☐ vigorous
- ☐ desiccated
- ☐ wizened
- ☐ arid
- ☐ hale

37. The children's attempt at a Mother's Day brunch was _____ ; soggy French toast, lukewarm coffee, and a syrup fight in the kitchen that would inevitably end up being cleaned up by the very recipient of the brunch.

- ☐ convivial
- ☐ amiable
- ☐ comical
- ☐ satirical
- ☐ farcical
- ☐ labile

38. Many major websites today have _____ privacy policy: written by lawyers to protect the website that hired them, the language in the document is so abstruse that most consumers could not read it even if they tried to.

- ☐ an inscrutable
- ☐ a decipherable
- ☐ a repetitive
- ☐ a lucid
- ☐ a sanctioned
- ☐ an unreadable

39. Though chronicling the heroism and sacrifice of the common soldier, Erich Remarque's classic novel, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, is profoundly _____ and thus was banned by the Nazis since it implicitly opposed their vision of armed conquest.

- ☐ inspirational
- ☐ pacific
- ☐ prescient
- ☐ conciliatory
- ☐ prophetic
- ☐ clairvoyant

40. Just months from retirement, the disgraced executive was forced to make _____ exit from the company.

- ☐ a glorious
- ☐ a triumphant
- ☐ a boorish
- ☐ an ignominious
- ☐ a defiled
- ☐ an unseemly

41. _____ in scandal, the company could regain favor with customers only through mass firings of guilty executives.

- ☐ Wallowing
- ☐ Stoic
- ☐ Bogged down
- ☐ Brave
- ☐ Mired
- ☐ Besotted

42. By framing the new law as a question of urgent safety rather than of privacy, the government obviated the need to pass through the standard channels of legislation, effectively _____ all formal dissent and relegating any would-be naysayer from a position of engaged activist to that of powerless bystander.

- ☐ curtailing

☐ undermining

☐ targeting

☐ lobbying

☐ instigating

☐ facilitating

43. Exactly which bird species fell victim first to the deadly virus is the subject of ongoing controversy; what is known, however, is that it took but a slight mutation in the pathogen's genetic constitution to render it lethal to _____ of related species.

- ☐ a contraband
- ☐ a surplus
- ☐ an aurora
- ☐ a myriad
- ☐ a pantheon
- ☐ a plethora

44. Although known for bon mots such as, "If you don't have anything nice to say about anybody, come sit next to me," Alice Roosevelt Longworth was said to be very kind; her circulated _____ did not reflect vindictiveness.

- ☐ vituperations
- ☐ rants
- ☐ witticisms
- ☐ zeal
- ☐ quips
- ☐ taciturnity

45. Always on the lookout for a shady deal or quick con, she became known and scorned as an _____ opportunist.

- ☐ unqualified
- ☐ unprincipled
- ☐ alluring
- ☐ unprecedented
- ☐ attractive
- ☐ unscrupulous

46. After many hours of debate, things seemed to have reached _____, as neither side was willing to give so much as an inch, and no one had anything new to offer.

- ☐ an impasse

- ☐ a pause
- ☐ a timeout
- ☐ a confrontation
- ☐ an engagement
- ☐ a stalemate

47. While kidney stones are known to produce a truly _____ sensation, often compared to the agony of childbirth, they are almost never fatal.

- ☐ anodyne
- ☐ inoffensive
- ☐ painstaking
- ☐ tortuous
- ☐ excruciating
- ☐ torturous

48. Given the breadth and speed of social media, the only way celebrities can hope to conceal their foibles is by employing practices as _____ as those of a spy ring.

- ☐ draconian
- ☐ arduous
- ☐ conspicuous
- ☐ duplicitous
- ☐ fanciful
- ☐ cloaked

49. The director of the musical admitted that while he was very good with characterization, scenery, lighting, and music, choreography was not at all his _____ .

- ☐ strong suit
- ☐ weakness
- ☐ forté
- ☐ hobby
- ☐ deficiency
- ☐ pastime

50. Though most technology used in the manufacture of bicycles is either decades old or adapted from other industries, the advent of carbon fiber frames brought with it genuine _____ .

- ☐ innovation
- ☐ antiquity

- ☐ flexibility
- ☐ venerability
- ☐ transformation
- ☐ seriousness

51. Through _____ antics that flouted the conventions of the establishment, the Yippies of the late 1960s impressed themselves into the public consciousness; their behavior culminated in the instigation of riots in Chicago during the Democratic convention in 1968.

- ☐ fastidious
- ☐ socialist
- ☐ brazen
- ☐ anarchist
- ☐ communist
- ☐ insolent

52. Sometimes _____ comes at a price; research suggests that among first-generation Chinese Americans, those who embrace the traditional Confucian values of their homeland are more likely to succeed academically than are those who do not.

- ☐ acculturation
- ☐ assimilation
- ☐ investiture
- ☐ alienation
- ☐ indebtedness
- ☐ estrangement

53. Many Enlightenment philosophers viewed Machiavelli's book as a satire meant to expose and caricature the _____ claims to power of the very figures Machiavelli pretended to endorse.

- ☐ sarcastic
- ☐ specious
- ☐ spurious
- ☐ squalid
- ☐ stolid
- ☐ stoic

54. The defendant impressed the jurors as _____ ; they did not believe that a woman of her education and experience could possibly be as naïve as she acted.

- ☐ disingenuous
- ☐ guileless
- ☐ innocent
- ☐ accomplished
- ☐ artful
- ☐ culpable

55. Crucial to fostering a realistic understanding of the potential boons—and perils—of the new drug will be a concerted effort to _____ the specific contexts and symptoms that render its use appropriate.

- ☐ furnish
- ☐ delineate
- ☐ outlaw
- ☐ transmute
- ☐ stipulate
- ☐ proscribe

56. Millions of dollars over budget and months late, the planned software was finally ready for release, much to the chagrin of its original investors; although it actually had all of the capabilities that the original specification _____, the delay meant that it had already been surpassed by competitor's products.

- ☐ possessed
- ☐ boasted of
- ☐ predicted
- ☐ updated
- ☐ enhanced
- ☐ promised

57. Robert Gottlieb, who otherwise found much to admire in John Steinbeck, argued that Steinbeck was politically _____, offering an adolescent disaffection in place of settled judgment.

- ☐ naïve
- ☐ perspicacious
- ☐ contemptible
- ☐ keen
- ☐ callow
- ☐ disinterested

58. The mayor's _____ speech turned the bipartisan issue—traffic reduction—into a three-month-long fight between former allies.

- ☐ alienating

- ☐ honest
- ☐ refreshing
- ☐ plodding
- ☐ divisive
- ☐ conventional

59. In his writings after visiting New York, Albert Camus expressed more of an inkling rather than a _____ understanding of what he found lacking in American culture.

- ☐ elementary
- ☐ shrewd
- ☐ penetrating
- ☐ inchoate
- ☐ sinuous
- ☐ dialectical

60. Technological advances in communication—such as computers and texting—have caused the teaching of cursive writing in school to become so exceptional that, if the trend continues, original source texts, minutes from historic meetings, diaries, and even letters from ancestors will become _____ to future generations.

- ☐ unintelligible
- ☐ intellectual
- ☐ meaningless
- ☐ humdrum
- ☐ quotidian
- ☐ indecipherable

61. It is in the best interest of criminal defendants to appear _____ in front of the judge, showing that not all moral sympathy is lost on them.

- ☐ callous
- ☐ vindicated
- ☐ contrite
- ☐ penitential
- ☐ messianic
- ☐ pious

62. After 25 years as an emergency room surgeon, his reaction during nearly any emergency could only be described as _____: he would evenly address the paramedics, evaluate the situation, and methodically work through his normal routine.

- ☐ qualified
- ☐ premeditated
- ☐ phlegmatic
- ☐ unflappable
- ☐ enraptured
- ☐ enthusiastic

63. Despite the blandishments of the real estate con artist, the intended mark remained _____ about the value of the plot for sale, as, on the map, it seemed to border a swamp.

- ☐ optimistic
- ☐ enthused
- ☐ irascible
- ☐ skeptical
- ☐ jaundiced
- ☐ leery

64. In response to a recent editorial slamming the agency's newest advertising campaign, the agency spokesman denounced the piece as _____ adversarial motives, due to the editorialist's position on the board of the agency's primary competitor.

- ☐ stemming from
- ☐ producing
- ☐ typifying
- ☐ epitomized by
- ☐ engendered by
- ☐ creating

65. In the week that followed the climber's disappearance, Internet rumor mongers blogged a myriad of _____ reports of her demise, only to be embarrassed by the release of a dramatic video that showed her celebrating on the summit.

- ☐ apocryphal
- ☐ apocalyptic
- ☐ sentimental
- ☐ spurious
- ☐ saccharine
- ☐ scandalous

66. That investments abated so dramatically in the final quarter of last year is surprising given the many clear indications that the company would soon be _____ .

- ☐ profitable
- ☐ bankrupt
- ☐ subsidized
- ☐ insolvent
- ☐ acquired
- ☐ thriving

67. The tragedy—and the resultant horrific loss of life and damage to property—occurred because of his _____ approach to his duties, evinced by his slouching posture and cavalier attitude.

- ☐ murderous
- ☐ petty
- ☐ lax
- ☐ aristocratic
- ☐ barbarous
- ☐ slack

68. The _____ that marks the composer's more recent work represents a major departure from the experiments in dissonance represented by her early compositions.

- ☐ disparity
- ☐ stridency
- ☐ creativity
- ☐ harmony
- ☐ harshness
- ☐ euphony

69. Although they were already late for the formal reception, the couple continued to _____ because they preferred to lounge about and bask in each other's company.

- ☐ lurk
- ☐ dally
- ☐ tarry
- ☐ skulk
- ☐ embrace
- ☐ equivocate

70. The player's exploits both on the field and in the finest night clubs around the world earned him many _____ from his legions of staunch admirers—so many, in fact, that his given name was all but forgotten.

- ☐ similes
- ☐ appellations

- ☐ sobriquets
- ☐ misnomers
- ☐ accolades
- ☐ kudos

71. To the casual observer, the desert appears _____ place; those who look deeper, however, discover that it supports a vibrant ecosystem teeming with life.

- ☐ a verdant
- ☐ an arid
- ☐ a desolate
- ☐ a desiccated
- ☐ an inhospitable
- ☐ a lush

72. The presidential candidate, known not only for the deeply reasoned content of his prepared speeches but also for the fiery brilliance of his delivery, badly miscalculated his ability to perform equally successfully when delivering _____ answers to unexpected queries from the media.

- ☐ extemporaneous
- ☐ capricious
- ☐ lubricious
- ☐ disingenuous
- ☐ impromptu
- ☐ premeditated

73. While her friends agree that she projects an air of affability, they are of two minds about whether this friendliness is in fact _____ .

- ☐ amiable
- ☐ unaffected
- ☐ genial
- ☐ magnanimity
- ☐ sincere
- ☐ vexing

74. To avoid a lengthy prison term, the convicted financier signed a binding document, delineating the millions in fines and restitution that she must pay, as well as another legal memorandum in which she _____ her role and financial interest in the hedge fund she had founded.

- ☐ abjured
- ☐ jeopardized
- ☐ reneged
- ☐ deposed
- ☐ censured
- ☐ forwent

75. Some religious adherents follow the letter of their particular tradition while simultaneously _____ its most basic ethical tenets, a fact that may explain why so much violence is perpetrated in the name of love of and obedience to a faith.

- ☐ breaching
- ☐ obeying
- ☐ surpassing
- ☐ heeding
- ☐ contravening
- ☐ contracting

76. It is perplexing that the number of PhD applicants in linguistics, so obviously a _____ field, has either grown or held steady in each of the past 15 years.

- ☐ moribund
- ☐ waxing
- ☐ burgeoning
- ☐ waning
- ☐ dissolute
- ☐ debased

77. Writers, particularly those of the contemplative persuasion, have always found the _____ nature of the mind—with its passing thoughts and inconstant moods—difficult to convey in language.

- ☐ inchoate
- ☐ essential
- ☐ vestigial
- ☐ ephemeral
- ☐ evasive
- ☐ fleeting

78. Though the majority of rules in sports are enumerated in rulebooks, there is _____ code of conduct that relates to sportsmanship.

- ☐ a tacit
- ☐ an evanescent

- ☐ an incorrigible
- ☐ an unambiguous
- ☐ a blatant
- ☐ an implicit

79. Many people think that antibiotics are a cure-all, but these medications can actually _____ the problem; taken inconsistently, antibiotics can in fact strengthen bacterial strains.

- ☐ exacerbate
- ☐ ameliorate
- ☐ differentiate
- ☐ distort
- ☐ pathologize
- ☐ magnify

80. Sandra was entirely _____ by the crossword puzzle that, unlike the simple fill-in-the-blanks published on weekdays, was one of the more difficult cryptic crosswords only published on weekends.

- ☐ confounded
- ☐ flummoxed
- ☐ enraged
- ☐ smitten
- ☐ incensed
- ☐ impressed

81. While many teachers say they are keen on the idea of participatory pedagogy, they often have little understanding of what participatory practices entail, and are, in fact, _____ to change; even when they think they are doing otherwise, observations show that teachers perpetuate the teacher-centered classroom practices to which they have been habituated.

- ☐ amenable
- ☐ impervious
- ☐ inimical
- ☐ prone
- ☐ reconciled
- ☐ resigned

82. The subject of the documentary was not bothered that the filmmaker received such _____ from the critics, but that none of the acclaim filtered down to him.

☐ opprobrium

☐ wealth

☐ fulmination

☐ approbation

☐ plaudits

☐ capital

83. *The Thin Blue Line*, a documentary by Errol Morris, is one of a very few movies that has had a tangible effect on the real world; the film managed to _____ its subject, who had been on death row for a crime that Morris demonstrated that the man did not commit.

- ☐ exculpate
- ☐ incarcerate
- ☐ inter
- ☐ excuse
- ☐ manumit
- ☐ vindicate

84. Most people expect to see straightforward and direct cause-and-effect relationships between actions and reactions; this contributes to making _____ one of the most difficult concepts to really understand.

- ☐ causality
- ☐ randomness
- ☐ intentionality
- ☐ happenstance
- ☐ mathematics
- ☐ science

85. The professor's belief that all of the students admitted to the university were well-qualified academically led her to assume some degree of _____ in every student who was doing poorly in her class.

- ☐ moral turpitude
- ☐ ineptness
- ☐ amorality
- ☐ laziness
- ☐ incompetence
- ☐ sloth

86. In a way, the environmental movement can still be said to be _____ movement, for while it has been around for decades, only recently has it become a serious organization associated with political parties and platforms.

- ☐ an incipient
- ☐ a disorganized
- ☐ a nascent
- ☐ a nebulous
- ☐ an inconsequential
- ☐ an immaterial

87. Einstein's idea that electromagnetic radiation was divided into a finite number of "energy quanta" was purely experiential until it was theoretically _____ by the work of physicists such as Louis de Broglie and Werner Heisenberg.

- ☐ bolstered
- ☐ undermined
- ☐ condoned
- ☐ pardoned
- ☐ sabotaged
- ☐ buttressed

88. The plan, according to law enforcement and judicial officials, was to keep the prisoner _____ during his court appearances, but the defense attorney argued that restraints would prejudice the jury.

- ☐ manacled
- ☐ malleable
- ☐ nettled
- ☐ fettered
- ☐ incensed
- ☐ incomparable

89. The painter was just as famous for his personality as for his work; unlike the many pretentious and egotistical men in his field, he was known to be entirely _____ .

- ☐ artless
- ☐ shrewd
- ☐ ingenuous
- ☐ selfless
- ☐ adroit
- ☐ artful

90. The newest romantic comedy wasn't exactly bad, but simply _____ ; it had laughs, but they were all jokes most audience members had heard before.

- ☐ atrocious

- ☐ amusing
- ☐ trite
- ☐ hackneyed
- ☐ witty
- ☐ egregious

91. An obsession with aesthetics _____ all of the work of the computer company; even their unsuccessful products manage to look like winsome pieces of modernist sculpture.

- ☐ underpins
- ☐ irradiates
- ☐ underserves
- ☐ overwhelms
- ☐ undergirds
- ☐ saturates

92. Oftentimes, when administrators force teachers to cleave too closely to a federal curriculum, those teachers feel _____, because the mandatory curriculum curbs their sense of being creative and dynamic educators.

- ☐ crushed
- ☐ confounded
- ☐ thwarted
- ☐ undermined
- ☐ tormented
- ☐ walloped

93. The federal government knows that a certain level of financial stability can be attained by lowering interest rates, yet if it overuses this power, it risks losing its most reliable means of _____ a crisis.

- ☐ interring
- ☐ exacerbating
- ☐ annihilating
- ☐ palliating
- ☐ compounding
- ☐ assuaging

94. Even though Mariposa loved taking on roles that involved a lot of lines, she was excited to be playing a more _____ character, requiring her to focus more on gesture and expression.

- ☐ laconic

- ☐ dramatic
- ☐ dejected
- ☐ curt
- ☐ mute
- ☐ melancholy

95. Because the United States has become a mature, established nation, the _____ nature of Thomas Paine's political diatribes is now downplayed by government officials, who would vociferously denounce a contemporary version as seditious.

- ☐ pallid
- ☐ incendiary
- ☐ antithetical
- ☐ anemic
- ☐ demagogic
- ☐ deferential

96. A professional spy, he always affected a _____ demeanor, but those who disliked him often characterized it as taciturn or brusque.

- ☐ phlegmatic
- ☐ histrionic
- ☐ hirsute
- ☐ melodramatic
- ☐ melancholic
- ☐ dispassionate

97. Though Hamlet is famous for being _____, he still manages to go on something of a killing spree in Shakespeare's play, proving that he is hardly paralyzed with depression.

- ☐ indecisive
- ☐ melancholy
- ☐ monological
- ☐ morose
- ☐ violent
- ☐ barbaric

98. It's worth wondering whether the increase in diagnoses of psychological disorders has caused us to see certain behaviors that were once considered normal as _____.

- ☐ importunate
- ☐ mythical

☐ unfortunate

☐ anomalous

☐ aberrant

☐ fabulous

99. Proust proved that the _____ can be the domain of the novel every bit as much as the fantastical can be.

- ☐ mundane
- ☐ literary
- ☐ bombastic
- ☐ cosmopolitan
- ☐ belletristic
- ☐ quotidian

100. The magazine's editor was known to be a very busy woman, so it was important when speaking with her to get right to the _____ of the issue.

- ☐ pith
- ☐ conclusion
- ☐ gist
- ☐ apex
- ☐ genesis
- ☐ culmination

101. The reclusive boy was thought to be less than clever, but at sixteen he wrote a complex and beautiful symphony that at long last revealed him to be _____ .

- ☐ dim
- ☐ musical
- ☐ monastic
- ☐ exceptional
- ☐ hermetic
- ☐ precocious

102. Many poets _____ the primacy of meter over words: Stephen Fry, in his book, *The Ode Less Traveled*, argues that rhythm is essential in poetry, whereas deeper meaning is less important.

- ☐ stress
- ☐ acknowledge
- ☐ allow

- ☐ immolate
- ☐ underscore
- ☐ decry

103. The saying “Time stops for no man” also applies to rock and roll; once the rebellious sound of the young, it _____ became part of the culture of the old, as had every preceding style of music.

- ☐ inevitably
- ☐ accidentally
- ☐ deliberately
- ☐ unavoidably
- ☐ resolutely
- ☐ painfully

104. Isherwood’s sympathy for communism during the interwar period was not only a reaction against fascism, but also a mark of his fellow feeling for the laboring classes and his _____ to engage as an equal with working people.

- ☐ disinclination
- ☐ hankering
- ☐ proclivity
- ☐ implacability
- ☐ unwillingness
- ☐ joviality

105. Academic freedom does not protect a professor’s classroom remarks on matters irrelevant to his subject, though it guarantees the professor considerable liberty of speech about matters _____ to his or her academic work.

- ☐ germane
- ☐ indifferent
- ☐ mimetic
- ☐ disinterested
- ☐ congruent
- ☐ pertinent

106. Unbridled passion, whether rage or ardor, gives way to the sort of rash declarations that too often end in _____ and sorrow.

- ☐ disdain

☐ pity

☐ rue

☐ affinity

☐ remorse

☐ contempt

107. The tremendous wealth of ancient life on display as part of the Ancient Life of New York exhibit—billion-year-old blue-green bacteria from the Adirondacks, fossilized tree stumps and spiders from Schoharie County, trilobites from Oneida County, and armored fish from throughout the state—represents only a tiny fraction of the New York State Museum’s _____ collection of over one million specimens.

- ☐ piecemeal
- ☐ voluble
- ☐ exhaustive
- ☐ evergreen
- ☐ sweeping
- ☐ commanding

108. The judge's keen eye for sussing out the pretension of the lawyers in her courtroom was surpassed only by the _____ wit with which she castigated them for it.

- ☐ sedulous
- ☐ mordant
- ☐ obtuse
- ☐ jurisprudent
- ☐ trenchant
- ☐ assiduous

109. The amount of self-abasement with which the inmate _____ the probation panel to be set free verged on the humiliating; nevertheless, the judges remained unmoved and he was ultimately sent back to his cell to serve another three years.

- ☐ beseeched
- ☐ chided
- ☐ snubbed
- ☐ conceded
- ☐ received
- ☐ supplicated

110. The cult members treated their leader with _____ loyalty that verged on the obsessive and made them willing, should the need ever arise, to do so much as lay down their lives for him.

- ☐ a fanatical
- ☐ an arbitrary
- ☐ a fickle
- ☐ a mortifying
- ☐ a zealous
- ☐ an indeterminate

111. Jefferson regarded sumptuous living as among the most _____ evils to threaten the young republic, more pernicious even than loyalty to the deposed empire.

- ☐ reactionary
- ☐ venerable
- ☐ epicurean
- ☐ grievous
- ☐ baneful
- ☐ fastidious

112. Theology was once regarded as the “Queen of the Sciences,” because every subject eventually had to meet its demands, but 200 years ago that honor and title fell to mathematics, which enjoys _____ over not only physical science but social science as well.

- ☐ mayhem
- ☐ credence
- ☐ hegemony
- ☐ autonomy
- ☐ dominance
- ☐ independence

113. The new particles produced by CERN’s Large Hadron Collider are _____, lasting a millionth of a billionth of a billionth of a second before disintegrating into photons, quarks, or other particles.

- ☐ ephemeral
- ☐ infinitesimal
- ☐ myriad
- ☐ poignant
- ☐ fleeting
- ☐ countless

114. While the professor first achieved renown for the theory he devised single-handedly during the early days of his career, his later contributions were achieved in a more _____ manner.

- ☐ solitary

- ☐ collaborative
- ☐ synergetic
- ☐ exegetic
- ☐ unilateral
- ☐ collusive

115. Although the media's coverage of the event was lackluster, the organizers still felt it was _____ ; what mattered, they said, was not the piddling number of talking heads who turned out to comment, but rather the mass of everyday people who came to register their disapproval of the proposed oil pipeline.

- ☐ a blemish
- ☐ an exception
- ☐ a coup
- ☐ a debacle
- ☐ a miracle
- ☐ an achievement

116. Lady Astor once commented to Winston Churchill, "If I were married to you, I'd put poison in your coffee." Churchill's famous _____ : "Nancy, if you were my wife, I'd drink it."

- ☐ anecdote
- ☐ aphorism
- ☐ retort
- ☐ recrimination
- ☐ rejoinder
- ☐ maxim

117. The teacher was well-loved by students, but he never _____ the work of teaching; in fact, planning lessons and facilitating group process only exacerbated his deep-seated anxieties about preparation and public speaking.

- ☐ appreciated
- ☐ fancied
- ☐ abhorred
- ☐ relished
- ☐ detested
- ☐ ascertained

118. The teacher was no _____ , although she felt she had to maintain the appearance of an authority figure; in truth, she couldn't care less whether students ate food in her class or doodled during lectures.

- ☐ stickler
- ☐ educator
- ☐ delinquent
- ☐ scholar
- ☐ luminary
- ☐ disciplinarian

119. The actress was young but not _____ ; she knew manipulation when she saw it, and she resisted being swayed by her crafty handlers.

- ☐ guileless
- ☐ disingenuous
- ☐ naïve
- ☐ cunning
- ☐ talented
- ☐ sophisticated

120. The _____ of recent national political discourse is matched only by the seriousness of the problems, which such hateful rhetoric is impotent to address.

- ☐ virulence
- ☐ acrimony
- ☐ shortsightedness
- ☐ partisanship
- ☐ miscalculation
- ☐ intransigence

121. Martin Luther King, Jr. was more _____ than is commonly thought today; it was only in the posthumous process of canonization that his more palatable, less far-reaching political and social visions became prominent.

- ☐ ineffective
- ☐ radical
- ☐ politic
- ☐ immoderate
- ☐ incongruous
- ☐ raucous

122. While it would help to offset a portion of the expenses of the renovation project, which had been far more _____ than initially anticipated, the proposed tourism fee was never enacted by the city council, who thought that a more complete solution was necessary.

- ☐ fortuitous

☐ unexpected

☐ costly

☐ subtle

☐ timely

☐ dear

123. Aviation authorities at one time issued _____ guidelines for hobbyists flying model airplanes, but in the absence of definitive laws, some individuals have chosen to ignore the recommendations.

- ☐ regular
- ☐ discretionary
- ☐ voluntary
- ☐ firm
- ☐ insufficient
- ☐ unvarying

124. The so-called “reality” television show claimed to display the _____ side of the starlet’s life, but her daily routines were far too sensational for the claims to hold true.

- ☐ unusual
- ☐ predictable
- ☐ quotidian
- ☐ exotic
- ☐ mundane
- ☐ plastic

125. The problem with listening to prognosticators—especially in an age when no one seeks to hold them accountable—is that for every accurate prediction made, there are several others that turn out to be _____ .

- ☐ mistaken
- ☐ unforeseen
- ☐ hasty
- ☐ misleading
- ☐ untrue
- ☐ surprising

126. If the allegations turn out to be true and the school’s administrators are found to be _____ , the university may lose its accreditation and the administrators might never be able to be employed in higher education again.

- ☐ repentant

- ☐ culpable
- ☐ synoptic
- ☐ contrite
- ☐ complicit
- ☐ unsound

127. The author's characterization of unions as always inimical to economic growth is too _____ for even his adherents to take seriously.

- ☐ temperate
- ☐ immoderate
- ☐ impressive
- ☐ lax
- ☐ splendid
- ☐ extreme

128. Thomas Pynchon became a renowned writer despite the glaring eccentricity of his work; he seemingly ignored the sensibilities of the general public rather than _____ them.

- ☐ recoiling from
- ☐ catering to
- ☐ coping with
- ☐ commiserating with
- ☐ pandering to
- ☐ cowering to

129. Many, if not most, sociologists subscribe to the idea that humans are _____, but the public reaction to the Ebola outbreak so mirrors the flailing hysteria recorded during the medieval plague outbreaks that it could be concluded that human nature is largely immutable.

- ☐ homogenous
- ☐ heterogeneous
- ☐ malleable
- ☐ monolithic
- ☐ pliant
- ☐ variegated

130. In romance novels, a strapping hero often _____ a rapier in the service of an ennobled yet submissive woman; this display of force carries the day but, despite the popularity of such books, some pundits bemoan the passive portrayal of women.

- ☐ sheathes

- ☐ brandishes
- ☐ wields
- ☐ promulgates
- ☐ disseminates
- ☐ cauterizes

131. Mr. Gupta announced that his centrist party would pursue prudent policies, courses that were progressive, while remaining _____ about imposing drastic social changes.

- ☐ passionate
- ☐ fervent
- ☐ cautious
- ☐ concerned
- ☐ congealed
- ☐ conservative

132. A problem in modern industrial nations—a designation that now encompasses more than the United States and Europe—is that when the wages of the middle class are stagnant, the economy expands at a _____ pace.

- ☐ plodding
- ☐ normal
- ☐ lucrative
- ☐ pedestrian
- ☐ profitable
- ☐ exponential

133. The abilities of microorganisms to adapt to sweeping environmental changes are more _____ than is commonly thought: from self-induced rapid mutations that allow them to utilize novel nutrient sources, to the appropriation of other microbe communities, their innovative capabilities know no end.

- ☐ ineffectual
- ☐ profuse
- ☐ advantageous
- ☐ prolific
- ☐ beneficial
- ☐ accommodating

134. Despite her reputation for conservative play, as of late, Polgar's chess has been full of _____ gambits.

- ☐ atypical
- ☐ treacherous
- ☐ abstruse
- ☐ anomalous
- ☐ studious
- ☐ impractical

135. Only by overlooking the grievances frequently expressed by her constituency could the incumbent think that the pandering advertisements would do anything but _____ her campaign.

- ☐ bolster
- ☐ aggrieve
- ☐ encourage
- ☐ hobble
- ☐ hamstring
- ☐ restore

136. Though often equivocal in making decisions, he was _____ in his resolve upon reaching a verdict.

- ☐ steadfast
- ☐ vacillating
- ☐ vague
- ☐ unwavering
- ☐ apprehensive
- ☐ critical

137. The expansion proposal, which the school board affirms will maximize efficiency while maintaining _____ class sizes, has nevertheless been resoundingly opposed by parent groups and the teachers union.

- ☐ remedial
- ☐ manageable
- ☐ flexible
- ☐ deficient
- ☐ reasonable
- ☐ unwieldy

138. The bridge player's frequent errors, although frustrating for his partner, were _____ his defeat, since none of the competing players could determine, from the cards he played, what cards he likely held—a necessary prerequisite to figuring out how to block his plays.

- ☐ an insurance against
- ☐ the reason for

☐ an indication of

☐ an obstacle to

☐ a hurdle for

☐ the guarantee of

139. The medical study contains a glaring deficiency: it assumes that the results are _____, however, the experimental participants were exclusively men between the ages of 30 and 60 with no significant co-morbidities.

- ☐ positive
- ☐ generalizable
- ☐ promising
- ☐ singular
- ☐ exceptional
- ☐ universal

Sentence Equivalence Answers

1. **Steward, husband.** The “While” indicates that the second part of the sentence will contrast with pushing forward—due to the approaching winter, the colonists need to stay put and conserve what they have. Only “steward” and “husband” mean this. “Sell” and “peddle” don’t work because there’s nothing in the sentence to indicate that they need to sell or buy anything. (And why would you sell your resources when a hard winter is coming?) “Procure,” which means get or acquire, doesn’t work because the sentence references their “existing resources.” “Upend” also doesn’t work because of its meaning; the colonists do not need to stand their resources on end!

2. **See, distinguish.** This sentence is worded in a tricky way, as the words “but” and “barely” negate each other. Thus, the blank parallels “saw deeply.” (“Proof” here means proofread or edit, and galleys are drafts of a book about to be published.) How ironic that an author who sees into the hearts of his characters is practically blind in real life! “Interpret” is an attractive trap, but Joyce had a vision problem, not an intellectual one. “Feel,” “walk,” and “move” are not correct because they don’t mean to see.

3. **Capricious, fickle.** The first part of the sentence describes a woman as “less _____” at work “than she is around her friends,” “but” her staff at work occasionally does see her “in a volatile state,” or a temperamental state that is likely to change quickly. Given the “but,” the blank must be a synonym for “volatile.” “Capricious” and “fickle” can both mean temperamental and likely to change quickly and so are the correct answers. Although “direct” and “explicit” form a pair, they are not synonyms for “volatile” and so are not correct. “Informal” and “pretentious” also do not fit “volatile.”

4. **Evolving, advancing.** Sometimes a seeming theme trap (“evolving”) is not a trap—this sentence is literally about evolution, and also uses “evolving” or “advancing,” the correct answers, metaphorically. “Fallacious” and “counterfactual” form an incorrect pair; the sentence doesn’t say that all science is wrong, just that it is constantly revised to account for new information. “Vacillating” is tempting because it can also mean changing, but it implies going back and forth, which is not the correct meaning. “Indeterminable” is similarly tempting because it means incapable of being decided, but the sentence isn’t really saying that; it is saying that science changes over time.

5. **Derivative, trite.** The blank is supposed to describe the music, “despite the notable exception of a few innovators,” so the blank must be something that is the opposite of innovative. “Derivative” means based on another source and “trite” means overused and lacking in freshness, making these two the correct answers. “Visionary” and “inspired” are tempting choices because they both can mean innovative, but the sentence calls for something that is not innovative. “Enigmatic” means hard to understand or mysterious, and although some might consider the music of the ’70s to be “enigmatic,” this word, along with “cerebral,” does not fit with the idea of not being innovative.

6. **Fledgling, novice.** Because the dancers are going to observe the “real masters of their art,” they themselves are not masters. “Fledgling” and “novice” both mean inexperienced. “Seasoned” and “expert” form a pair, in agreement with “real masters” but opposite the blank in meaning. “Torpida,” which means sluggish, might describe novice dancers, but can’t be correct because it doesn’t have a match. Similarly “lithe,” which means supple and graceful, is a great word for describing dancers, but lacks a match.

7. **Paeon, tribute.** A “retrospective” would be an exhibit that shows the history and progression of the artist’s work, but this exhibit only shows the good parts (it “glossed over” the weaker work and omits the artist’s “dissolution,” which literally means ending, but metaphorically could mean his failure at the end). Thus, the blank needs a word that has something to do with praising. “Paeon” and “tribute” are the only matches. A “paeon” is generally a song or speech of praise and is used metaphorically here. “Polemic” and “tirade” both mean a long angry speech, and so do not fit the blank. “Panacea,” which means a cure-all, also has the wrong meaning, as does “critique.”

8. **Flagging, enervated.** After “a long, hard practice” in hot weather, naturally the players would be tired. “Flagging” and “enervated” both mean tired. Although the players who withstood such a demanding practice likely are “ hale” and “vigorous,” it wouldn’t make sense to say that they “were visibly” healthy or energetic after working very hard. “Lissome,” which means slim and graceful, and “loathsome,” which means repulsive, are great GRE words, but they don’t fit the meaning of this sentence.

9. **Medley, mélange.** The feast includes a “variety of dishes,” so the sentence requires a word that means mixture or multitude. “Medley” and “mélange” both mean mixture. “Paucity” and “dearth” both mean scarcity, so that pair is at odds with the idea that there are many different dishes. “Rarity” could perhaps refer to the scent of dishes that are only made once a year, but “anomaly” refers to something that deviates from the norm, so these two words can’t be the correct pair.

10. **A bald, an overt.** The earlier “evasions and equivocations” are ways to avoid a question or flip-flop on an issue. The latest statement is “unlike the politician’s earlier evasions and equivocations” because it is an explicit, clear, or obvious lie. “Bald” and “overt” both match. The trap answers “tacit” and “implicit” (hinted at, unspoken) are synonyms that mean the opposite of what the blank requires. “Didactic” and “rhetorical,” which could both describe a speech that is intended to instruct, are near synonyms that form a pair. However, they don’t fit the meaning of the sentence.

11. **Priggish, punctilious.** The blank requires a word that is the opposite of the words “lighthearted” and “liveliness and spontaneity,” so something like “strict” would match. “Priggish,” which means self-righteous, and “punctilious,” which means conscientious, are not quite synonyms, but are both related to taking the rules much too seriously. “Lax” is a reversal trap, as is “impious,” which means irreverent; both words are possible antonyms for

strict. Neither “equable,” which means even-tempered, nor “auspicious,” which means favorable or promising, fits the desired meaning nor have matches, so they are also incorrect.

12. **Touted, promoted.** The sentence says that certain people “were once ignored” but are “now being _____ as the new frontier.” The blank, then, has to mean something like not ignored in a new or novel way. If something is “touted” or “promoted,” someone is trying to sell it, at least figuratively, which fits with the idea that mainstream media and marketing companies are trying to promote gays and lesbians as the new frontier in consumer spending. “Scrutinized” is tempting, because it could be regarded as the reverse of being ignored, but it has no match and thus cannot be a correct answer. “Revered” is similarly tempting, but again it does not have a match and so cannot be the answer. “Subverted,” or undermined, is a good GRE vocabulary word, but it can’t be the answer because, like “predicted,” it doesn’t fit the sentence.

13. **Feasible, viable.** The blank requires two words that are like “pragmatic,” which means practical. “Feasible” and “viable” relate to the practical considerations of whether the plan is workable or likely to succeed. The pairing “partisan” and “prejudiced” is a trap; the words mean biased and fit with “ideological,” not “pragmatic.” Neither “voluble,” which means talkative, nor “innocuous,” which means harmless, fits the intended meaning.

14. **Puckish, wry.** You need two words that are the opposite of “somewhat somber.” Only “puckish” and “wry” have the sense of being funny or playful and so are the correct answers. Although “prurient,” meaning having an excessive interest in sexual matters, might describe a comedy about a “philandering hairdresser,” it doesn’t have an answer match. “Inhibited” and “puritanical” form a pair, but have the wrong meaning—they are too similar to “somber.” Finally, “dated” might be used to describe an old movie, but it doesn’t have a match.

15. **A prolific, a fecund.** The novelist is described as “never at a loss for new ideas,” so she must have a very active imagination. “Prolific” and “fecund” both mean fertile, or very productive, and thus fit this clue perfectly. “Profligate” is almost a match for “prolific” and “fecund” because it means wildly extravagant, and a person who produces a lot of ideas of varying quality could be described as having a “profligate” imagination. However, “profligate” has a distinctly negative spin (it implies wastefulness) that “prolific” and “fecund” do not have and so does not match them in meaning as well as they match each other. “Prolix” is a trap because it looks similar to “prolific,” but it means tediously lengthy. “Exemplary” and “ingenious” form a tempting wrong answer pair, because the writer’s imagination does appear to be outstanding, but the sentence specifically says that “the quality of her works is far from consistent,” which makes “prolific” and “fecund” much better matches.

16. **Capricious, erratic.** The clue is “without regard for precedents”—that is, the monarchs made decisions based on their own whims or desires, ignoring any preexisting standards. “Capricious” and “erratic” can both mean changeable and unpredictable, describing such monarchs perfectly. “Considered” is the opposite of the desired meaning, and “malicious,” “pessimistic,” and “insidious,” which means stealthy, while appropriately negative, add new ideas that are not indicated by the sentence.

17. **Flabbergasted, bedazzled.** Since the expedition “was conceived primarily as a mapping project,” the officials could be amazed or surprised at the “wealth of information on a myriad of topics that the explorers gathered.”

Both “flabbergasted” and “bedazzled” convey surprise or awe. While the officials might have been “aggravated” that the explorers returned with too much information, another word with similar meaning doesn’t exist to pair with “aggravated.” “Crushed,” “bored,” and “disappointed” don’t appropriately describe the situation; the explorers brought back even more information than they were originally planning.

18. **Prone, disposed.** “Xenophobia,” which means dislike or fear of people from other social or cultural groups, is described in the sentence as “a learned behavior.” The “however” marks this view as opposed to the preceding part of the sentence, which then must be saying that “many people erroneously believe” that xenophobia is not a learned behavior. If a behavior is not learned, it must be inborn or innate. The correct answers are “prone” and “disposed,” which mean inclined or willing. “Compelled” and “indoctrinated” form a pair that suggests that force or manipulation are used to get people to be xenophobic, which does not fit with the idea of it being an innate behavior. “Taught” cannot be correct because if something is “taught,” it is not innate. “Proven” is a theme trap because scientists often try to prove theories, but it cannot be correct because it does not have a match.

19. **Diversity, mutation.** The geneticists mentioned are studying a population descended from a rather small number of people a rather long time ago. Geneticists—who study genes, of course—would be interested in how the genes of this population changed over time. Therefore, “the study of” both genetic “diversity” and genetic “mutation” appropriately fit the blank. “Revivification,” which means the restoration of life, and “rejuvenation” do not fit because this sentence is not about bringing ancient people back to life. “Therapy” and “history” have the wrong meanings.

20. **Triage, prioritize.** The words for the blank should match the clue “to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff.” (Chaff is the inedible part of wheat that is discarded before the wheat can be made into flour, so this expression means to separate out the useful and non-useful, or important and unimportant, parts of something.) You can also use the clues regarding “the only way that a person can function” given an “influx of information.” “Delete” and “eliminate” are attractive traps but don’t match the idea of separating the important parts from the unimportant. Only “triage” (think of what emergency room nurses do) and “prioritize” match. “Respond” and “requite,” which means to reciprocate, are not good fits.

21. **Tenaciously, doggedly.** The word “Although” indicates that the correct pair must contrast “accommodating.” Both “tenaciously” and “doggedly” convey the idea that Orwell refused to back down. The pair “obsequiously” and “sycophantically,” which both mean fawning or in an excessively deferential manner, are the opposite of what the blank requires. “Inadvertently,” which means accidentally, and “idiosyncratically,” which means individualistic, can’t be correct because they don’t have matches.

22. **A flabbergasting, a confounding.** The word “Although” indicates that the blank will convey something that contrasts with the main clause of the sentence, which says that “_____ number of painters lived” to an old age. Since the sentence also says that paints contained poisons, you need two words that mean something like surprising or surprisingly large. The correct answers, “a flabbergasting” and “a confounding” both mean surprising. Trap answers “incomprehensible” and “impossible” go too far—it’s interesting that many painters had long lives, but it’s not beyond all comprehension. “Dismaying” is incorrect because it isn’t upsetting that many painters lived long lives. Although apparently contradictory information might be “enlightening,” that word has no match and cannot be correct.

23. **Gauche, uncouth.** The two words must match the words “ostentatious” and “showy.” Both “gauche” and “uncouth” convey the idea of showing off in

a vulgar way. Remember not to insert your own opinions—“eccentric” and “idiosyncratic” are near-synonyms, but are a trap. “Prosperous” and “affluent” also form a tempting trap, because they could both describe someone who is “newly rich,” but they do not mean “showy.”

24. **Moderate, temper.** The sentence describes the blogger as “radical” and says that “in order to appeal to the more middle-of-the-road sensibilities,” she had to do something to “_____ the expression of her views”; in other words, she had to alter them in some way. “Moderate” and “temper” are the correct answers because both mean to make something less extreme.

“Undermine,” a synonym for sabotage, is tempting, but the usage is incorrect here because one does not deliberately undermine one’s own views. To “galvanize” is to shock or excite into action and to “amalgamate” is to combine, so neither of these words fits with the idea of moderating. To “abridge” is to shorten, but shortening the expression of one’s views does not make them more moderate.

25. **Depict, mirror.** The image of people with “small waists” is contrasted with that of people in “overweight Western societies.” The word “not” before the blank indicates that the blank should mean represent or portray. To “mirror” means to “depict” or portray, and thus both correct answers are good matches. “Distort” is a trap answer, because although an image can be distorted, the sentence is not saying that modern people are distorted. “Denigrate” and “defame” are both very strong words that mean to criticize or disparage, but there is no criticism of modern people in this sentence, just a comparison. “Deify,” which means to treat as godlike, neither has a match nor fits the meaning of the sentence.

26. **Novel, fresh.** The sentence says the commentator “parroted his ideological compatriots,” people who think the same way that he does; his commentary was the same as theirs. However, “anything but” reverses the direction, so if his commentary was the same as someone else’s, it was anything but “novel” or “fresh,” the correct answers. If something is “tendentious,” it is intended to promote a particular viewpoint, so that is not the right answer. Although “evenhanded” is tempting, it cannot be the correct answer because it does not have a good match. “Derivative” and “hackneyed” form an incorrect trap pair; both of these words mean imitative or unoriginal, the opposite of what the blank requires.

27. **Putative, conjectural.** The structure of the sentence indicates that the blank opposes the word “proven”; it should be something like unproven or not necessarily proven. The correct answers, “putative” (generally thought to be) and “conjectural” (hypothetical, speculative) both match this meaning. “Corroborated” and “irrefutable” are an incorrect pair of words that have meanings similar to “proven.” “Incorrect” could also be seen as an opposite of “proven,” but it does not have a match (and note that an unproven theory is not necessarily wrong). “Irreconcilable,” which means incompatible or conflicting, also cannot be correct because it neither has a match nor fits the intended meaning.

28. **A reviewer for, an overseer to.** The sentence says that “no one submitted a construction project proposal if another expressed concerns.” Each of the engineers could look over a proposal before submission, and thereby act as “an overseer to” the others. The only other option that gives that same meaning is “a reviewer for,” since reviewers check for issues. “A go between for” and “a negotiator for” are an incorrect pair, since there is nothing in the sentence that suggests that the engineers negotiate with each other. A “hindrance to” is tempting but has a negative spin, and there is nothing in the

sentence suggesting that the relationship is negative. Similarly, “an estimator for” is attractive because construction project proposals involve estimates, but the second part of the sentence says that the issue was only whether other engineers “expressed concerns” about project feasibility or cost estimates. It does not say that the engineers performed each others’ cost estimates, so “an estimator” is going too far.

29. **Cunning, subterfuge.** Both Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty engage in “clever deception,” though one of them is ethical and the other is not. The blank requires a synonym for “clever deception.” “Cunning” and “subterfuge” can both mean “clever deception” and so are the correct answers. “Immorality” and “wrongdoing” do not imply anything clever, and “brilliance” and “judgment” do not imply deception.

30. **Transparent, overt.** The etymology, or origin, of the word “alpha” is described as “obscure,” and the word “while” implies that the blank, which describes the etymology of “omega,” will be not obscure. Both “transparent” and “overt” carry this meaning. “Complicated” and “abstruse” are the opposite of the desired meaning, and neither “erudite” (learned, scholarly) nor “scholarly” fits the meaning of the sentence.

31. **Vivacious, mirthful.** In this case, “sobriety” means grave or serious, so the blank requires an antonym, something like happy or lively. “Vivacious” means lively and “mirthful” means full of joy. These are correct answers. “Dull” and “lackluster” are the opposites of the desired meaning. “Poignant” (touching in a sad way) also does not mean happy or lively. “Benign” can mean kindly, but has no connotation of joyous or lively and so does not fit.

32. **Probity, equity.** There are “allegations of preferential treatment,” or unfairness, at the local level, and these are threatening to spill over into criticisms that the system is unfair or partial at the national level. The sentence indicates, however, that the system’s fairness is “not currently in dispute” at that level, so the blank requires synonyms for fairness or impartiality. The correct answers are “equity” and “probity” (integrity, honesty). The words “unfairness” and “partiality,” which means favoritism, are opposite the desired meaning. “Solemnity,” which describes a serious and proper state of being, and “solicitousness,” which means hovering attentiveness, are not correct because they do not fit the desired meaning and do not have a match.

33. **Polemical, scathing.** The sentence says that “little care was given to the concealment of dislike ... or scorn.” “Scathing” is a good description of such a response. “Polemical” also fits the blank, as a polemic is a scathing text or speech. An iconoclast is someone who attacks beliefs or institutions that are widely accepted, so a predictable response to a “provocative proposal” would not be described as “iconoclastic.” “Inscrutable” and “impenetrable” both mean impossible to understand, but, since the criticism here was unconcealed, these don’t work. “Fictitious” cannot be correct, because there is nothing to suggest that the response was imaginary, although the authors might have wished that it were.

34. **Arduous, onerous.** The prime minister “affected empathy for the impoverished citizenry,” meaning that she acted as if she understood and shared the emotions of the poor citizens. However, the word “but” after the comma changes the direction, suggesting that she didn’t actually feel that way. The sentence goes on to say that most historians think that her “austerity measures,” meaning cost-saving measures, further harmed the poor citizens. The measures are described as “unduly _____,” so the blank must be filled by something that an empathetic person would not impose on citizens struggling with poverty. The correct answers are “arduous” and “onerous,” which both mean overly difficult or unpleasant. “Strict” is almost a match, but strict is used to describe rules that must be obeyed, not rules that are overly

harsh. “Commercial” and “mercantilist” form a pair that means having to do with the buying and selling of goods and services, but this is a trap because the sentence talks about “economic historians.” “Venal” is an excellent GRE word that means capable of being bought or bribed, but does not work here.

35. **Pacific, placid.** Getting to the spa is “hectic,” but this “stress” is “more than made up for” once visitors reach the spa. The spa’s environment, then, is the opposite of hectic or stressful; it is calm or soothing. The correct answers, “pacific” and “placid,” both match this meaning. Although spas are often “elegant” or luxurious,” this pair does not match the meaning of calm or soothing. “Effusive,” which means gushing, and “blithe,” which means cheerfully indifferent or happy, are also not good matches for the desired meaning.

36. **Desiccated, wizened.** The man looks even older than his actual age of 70, as though he had “endured at least 40 years in the desert.” “Desiccated” means dried out and “wizened” means old and withered. The trap answer “arid,” which means dry, is a good word to describe a desert, but cannot describe a person. “Vigorous” and “hale” are both used to describe strong and healthy people, so they do not fit the intended meaning. “Fetid,” which means foul smelling, does not fit the desired meaning.

37. **Comical, farcical.** The “children’s attempt at a Mother’s Day brunch” went pretty badly—so badly that it actually made more work for Mom. What a joke! Correct choices “comical” and “farcical” both mean laughable. The brunch was not “satirical,” because it was not making fun of a preexisting work of art, situation, etc. Although the brunch likely was “convivial” and “amiable,” which both mean warm and good-humored, this pair doesn’t fit with the idea of children creating a minor disaster while trying to do something nice for their mother. “Labile,” which can mean unstable or moody, is used to describe a person or a chemical reaction, not a brunch.

38. **An inscrutable, an unreadable.** The language of the privacy policy “is so abstruse that most consumers could not read it,” indicating that the privacy policy must be hard to read, and indeed “abstruse” means difficult to comprehend. The correct answers, “inscrutable” and “unreadable,” although not perfect synonyms for each other, also both mean difficult to comprehend or understand. “Decipherable” and “lucid,” meaning clear and understandable, are the opposite of what the blank requires. “Sanctioned,” which in this context means officially approved of, and “repetitive” are not synonyms for “hard to read” and so cannot be correct.

39. **Pacific, conciliatory.** The opening “Though” foreshadows a twist. The sentence means that although the novel describes “the heroism and sacrifice of the common soldier,” it is “profoundly _____,” where the blank is something that would be unexpected in a novel about brave soldiers. The sentence also says that the novel was banned because it “implicitly opposed,” or was against, “their vision of armed conquest.” Therefore, it must have an anti-armed conquest theme, something peaceful. “Pacific” and “conciliatory,” which both mean anti-war, are the correct answers. “Prescient,” “clairvoyant,” and “prophetic” all mean able to foresee the future, a trait related to the Nazis’s “vision of armed conquest.” The sentence isn’t talking about a supernatural vision, but rather about an overarching goal. It is true that “prophetic” can also mean “characteristic of prophets,” and many prophets in various religious traditions spoke out against what they saw as evil governments. However, the interpretation of “prophetic” as “resisting evil authority” is not what is found as even a secondary definition in standard dictionaries. More importantly, even if you accepted this definition, there is no synonymous or near-synonymous partner among the answer choices. Sentence Equivalence questions require two answers that produce equivalent sentences. Only “pacific” and “conciliatory” work.

40. **An ignominious, an unseemly.** The blank should match “disgraced.”

“Ignominious” and “unseemly” work well. Trap answer “defiled” does not appropriately describe an action (you could defile a holy place by doing something very inappropriate, but for a place or thing to be defiled, it should be very pure beforehand). “Glorious” and “triumphant” do not match the idea that the executive was “disgraced.” “Boorish,” which means ill-mannered, is incorrect because it doesn’t have a match.

41. **Bogged down, mired.** The scandal is so severe that the company can save itself only through the rather extreme measure of “mass firings.” “Bogged down” and “mired” have the sense of being stuck in something (a bog and a mire are both physical things—swampy, quicksand-like patches). Note trap answer “wallowing” (indulging oneself)—only a person or animal can wallow (and anyone wallowing wouldn’t want to regain favor anyway). “Stoic” and “brave” are used to describe people who calmly face danger or hardship, but do not fit the idea that the company is in a “scandal.” “Besotted,” which means infatuated, has the wrong meaning and no match.

42. **Curtailing, undermining.** The government “obviated” or avoided, the traditional “channels of legislation,” and by doing so is making “formal dissent” impossible. In other words, the government is “curtailing” or “undermining” such disagreement—words that both mean to prevent or undercut. “Targeting” is tempting, but the government isn’t aiming at or attacking formal dissent; rather, it is preventing or avoiding it entirely. “Lobbying,” “instigating,” and “facilitating,” although all words associated with political actions, do not have the correct meaning.

43. **A myriad, a plethora.** The virus spread to a large number (“myriad,” “plethora”) of bird species. Watch out for trap answers “surplus,” which means an excess and would not be appropriate to describe bird species, and “pantheon,” which means all of the gods in a particular religion and also would not be appropriate to describe a number of bird species. “Contraband,” meaning illegal goods, and “aurora,” used to describe the dawn or other lights in the sky, are great GRE words, but not good fits for the blank.

44. **Witticisms, quips.** The first part of sentence says that, even though Longworth was known for “bon mots,” which literally means “good words” in French and is generally used to describe wisecracks or one-liners, she was actually a “very kind” person. Given that her “_____” did not reflect any vindictiveness,” or meanness, the blank must be another word for “bon mots,” such as “witticisms” or “quips.” Although “vituperations,” meaning verbally abusive language, and “rants” also form a pair, they are much more negative than “bon mots” and therefore not a match. “Taciturnity” describes the state of being taciturn, or untalkative, and so has the wrong meaning. “Zeal” which means fervor or enthusiasm, doesn’t have the correct meaning either, and also isn’t used quite correctly in this expression. Although “zeal” can be passed from person to person, it isn’t explicitly circulated, the way that one-liners are.

45. **Unprincipled, unscrupulous.** The woman is looking for “a shady deal or quick con,” making her someone who is looking to make money by any means necessary. While “alluring” and “attractive” are a pair of words with similar meanings, there is nothing in the sentence that suggests she is pleasing to the eye. Of the remaining words, “unprecedented” does not work, since there is no clue that she is the first opportunist, and “unqualified” fails as well, since there is no clue that she is not qualified as an opportunist. This leaves the correct pair of “unprincipled” and “unscrupulous,” both of which mean not acting with moral principles.

46. **An impasse, a stalemate.** If neither side of the debate is willing to give an inch to the other, then it would be impossible for a solution to be found. The debate is more or less frozen. Both “a confrontation” and “an engagement” imply some kind of clash, but the sentence implies that any kind of serious clashing is now over (no one had anything new to offer). “An impasse” and “a stalemate” reflect the static nature of the conflict. “A pause” and “a timeout” are not correct because there is no indication that the debate will continue.

47. **Excruciating, torturous.** The sensation produced by kidney stones is

compared to “the agony of childbirth,” so the blank must be a word that means extremely painful. “Painstaking” (done with great care) and “tortuous” (full of twists and turns) are both traps. The correct answers, “excruciating” and “torturous,” describe terrible pain. “Anodyne” and “inoffensive” are similar to each other but mean the opposite of what the blank requires.

48. Duplicitous, cloaked. The sentence begins by suggesting that social media has fast and far-reaching effects, so celebrities wanting to “conceal their foibles” would need to do something that would resemble what a spy ring would do: be unobserved or deceitful. The correct answers are “duplicitous” and “cloaked,” both of which mean deceitful or concealed. While a spy ring might act in a way that is “draconian” (excessively harsh) or “arduous” (difficult or tiring), these words don’t fit with the sentence, nor do they have matching words among the answer choices. Both “conspicuous” (noticeable) and “fanciful” (overimaginative or unrealistic) describe practices that are the opposite of what a spy ring would employ.

49. **Strong suit, forté.** The sentence lists the many things that the director is good at, but the word “while” in this expression suggests that choreography was a weakness. The phrase “not at all” twists the meaning back in the opposite direction, so the blank requires a word like strength. “Strong suit” and “forté” both fit perfectly. “Hobby” and “pastime” are a pair, but they don’t work here, as this is clearly the director’s job. Similarly, “weakness” and “deficiency” are a pair but mean the opposite of what the sentence suggests.

50. **Innovation, transformation.** “Though” indicates that the advent of carbon fiber brought something opposite to “old or adapted” technology. The blank should mean originality or change—“innovation” and “transformation” match that meaning. The opposite of a new item is an “antiquity.” The other answer choices could each be considered a positive value brought about by carbon fiber frames, but without a clue about the bike’s “flexibility,” “venerability,” or “seriousness,” none of those answer choices would fit, nor do they have a pair word.

51. **Brazen, insolent.** The sentence says that the “_____ antics” of the group “flouted” (openly ignored or disobeyed) “the conventions of the establishment.” “Brazen” and “insolent” can both mean to openly ignore or disobey and they are the correct answers. “Socialist” and “communist” form a tempting pair because people who adhere to either socialist or communist beliefs might well have disagreed with “the conventions of the establishment” in the United States in the 1960s, but neither term means to disobey. “Anarchist” is perhaps the most tempting wrong answer because anarchists do not believe in formal governments and are sometimes described as agitators or insurgents, but there is no match for “anarchist” among the choices, so it cannot be correct. “Fastidious,” or particularly concerned about detail or cleanliness, most certainly does not describe the behavior of the Yippies.

52. **Acculturation, assimilation.** The structure of this sentence demands a little extra attention. Those who do not “embrace the ... values of their homeland” do worse academically, so they will be the ones to pay the “price.” What comes at a price, then, is embracing the culture of the new home. “Acculturation” and “assimilation” both mean exactly this. The incorrect pair, “alienation” and “estrangement” (separation from a group), have the opposite meaning. “Indebtedness” does not fit this sentence, since there is no reason to believe that someone owes someone else. And “investiture,” which means the act or formal ceremony of conferring rank on a person, also does not fit in this sentence.

53. **Specious, spurious.** If Machiavelli only pretended to endorse “the _____ claims to power,” and if they were subject to “exposure and caricature,” they must have been not only illegitimate but ridiculous. None of the answers suggests ridiculousness, but two answers—“specious” and “spurious”—mean the claims are false. While not synonyms, both words describe claims that are superficially attractive, but in fact false. “Sarcastic” (mocking) might be a trap for someone who misses that the claims referred to by the blank are not made by Machiavelli but by those who originally made the claims to power. “Squalid” (dirty or dishonest) doesn’t fit the sentence or match any other answer choice. And while “stolid” and “stoic” both mean unemotional, the sentence offers no reason to believe that the claims are unemotional.

54. **Disingenuous, artful.** This sentence is difficult because the word “impressed” is used to refer to making an impression in a negative way. The defendant did not make a positive impression; rather, the sentence suggests that she came across as not as naïve as she pretended to be. “Disingenuous” means precisely that and one meaning of “artful” is deceptive. The sentence does not suggest that the woman was “innocent,” and while she might have been “accomplished,” that’s not how the jurors thought of her actions. “Guileless” is a trap since it is a synonym of both ingenuous and artless, all three of which mean innocent and without deception; this meaning, however, is the opposite of what

the blank requires. Finally, “culpable” means guilty and is an attractive trap, but goes further than the clues in the sentence; the woman was not naïve, but she was not necessarily guilty.

55. **Delineate, stipulate.** A “realistic understanding of the potential boons—and perils,” or advantages and disadvantages, of the new drug requires that people know when they should and should not use it. In other words, the “contexts and symptoms” that are “appropriate” for taking the drug should be “delineated” or “stipulated,” both of which mean spelled out or specified. “Furnish,” which means to provide or to be a source of, might seem close, but one would not provide the times when the drug’s use is appropriate. Instead, the sentence suggests that people need to provide appropriate information about when the drugs should be used. “Outlaw” and “proscribe” form a pair, but one would be unable to ban or forbid “the contexts,” much less “the symptoms,” for using the drug. Finally, “transmute,” meaning to change in form, does not fit the context.

56. **Boasted of, promised.** If you don’t know the meaning of “chagrin,” or embarrassment, this problem could be challenging. The investors were embarrassed that, when the software got to market, it had already been surpassed! Here is a great opportunity to recycle other words from the sentence to fill in the blank: a “specification” must specify, or call for or describe. “Possessed” is a tempting choice here, but a specification is just a description of a planned product or project and therefore can’t possess the actual capabilities of the software. “Updated” and “enhanced” form a nice equivalent pair, but they don’t quite fit the meaning. Finally, “predicted” does not accurately describe what the “original specification” would do—it wouldn’t forecast the capabilities of the software, it would just describe what they were supposed to do. That leaves “boasted of” and “promised” as the correct answer pair.

57. **Naïve, callow.** “Otherwise” suggests that Gottlieb did not find Steinbeck’s political views admirable. “Adolescent disaffection” suggests that Gottlieb found Steinbeck’s views in some sense immature, so look for negative words that mean something like unsophisticated. “Naïve” and “callow” are the best options. “Perspicacious” and “keen” both suggest insight, nearly opposite of what the sentence suggests. “Disinterested” is a tricky word here. It most commonly means unbiased, though it can also mean not interested (two very different meanings). Neither option makes a great sentence here, but just as important, none of the other answer choices has a similar meaning to either definition. “Contemptible” is negative, but with no suggestion of immaturity

—make sure to use the clues provided without adding your own ideas.

58. **Alienating, divisive.** “Bipartisan” in this context means an issue on which both sides agree. If the speech turns that issue into a “three-month-long fight,” then the word in the blank, which describes the speech, must be something pretty negative, pitting both sides against each other. “Alienating” and “divisive” are great matches, suggesting estrangement and hostility. A “refreshing” speech would have woken everyone up and a “plodding” speech would have put everyone to sleep, but neither would have turned friends against each other. “Conventional” and “honest” are both incorrect as well, since neither matches another answer choice.

59. **Shrewd, penetrating.** The blank should be an antonym for “inkling,” which means only a hint of something. Camus had only a hint of understanding “rather than” a thorough or complete “understanding.” Both “shrewd” and “penetrating” fit this idea. “Elementary” and “inchoate” are a pair of words that mean simple-minded or still developing, and are the opposite of what the sentence suggests. Finally, “sinuous” means containing many curves and “dialectical” means related to discussion of ideas and opinions. These words do not form a pair and do not fit the intended meaning of the sentence.

60. **Unintelligible, indecipherable.** Fewer and fewer people are learning to write (or read) cursive, and it may become true that no one will learn it in the future. If that's the case, no one will be able to read the documents written in cursive, rendering them unreadable. The two most closely matched answers are "unintelligible" and "indecipherable." "Intellectual" does not fit the required meaning. "Meaningless" is a tempting answer, but the documents *do* have meaning—it's just that no one will be able to determine what that meaning is. "Humdrum" and "quotidian" have similar meanings, but there's no indication that the sources will be boring, so these answers are also incorrect.

61. **Contrite, penitential.** Criminal defendants want to look good in front of the judge by "showing that not all moral sympathy is lost on them." The defendants are not necessarily innocent, so "vindicated" doesn't work. Neither would "pious," meaning devoutly religious, or "messianic," meaning fervent or passionate. And "callous" has the opposite tone of the intended meaning; a defendant appearing callous in front of a judge would be showing insensitivity for his or her actions. That leaves the correct answers, "contrite" and "penitential," both of which mean remorseful or apologetic.

62. **Phlegmatic, unflappable.** The surgeon worked "methodically" and addressed paramedics "evenly," so his reactions in an emergency would be calm, cool, and in control. "Phlegmatic" means not excitable, calm, and composed, so it's a good fit. "Unflappable" means not easily upset or perturbed, especially in a crisis. "Qualified" is a bit of a trap: he's a qualified doctor, but to say that his reactions were "qualified" would imply that they were limited or restricted in some way. Someone methodical might be "premeditat[ing]" about certain things, but how can a reaction be "premeditated"? He couldn't pre-plan his response to an emergency. "Enraptured" and "enthusiastic" would indicate emotional responses, but, in fact, the opposite was true: he showed little emotion and retained composure.

63. **Skeptical, leery.** The word "Despite" at the beginning of the sentence indicates that the blank must oppose the encouragement of a con artist (someone who tricks people out of money)—that is, the "mark" is doubtful about the con artist's claims. (A mark is someone who is a target of a criminal or con artist.) "Skeptical" and "leery" match this meaning. "Optimistic" and "enthused" create a pair, but do not fit the required meaning of the sentence. And the remaining words neither fit the intended meaning of the sentence nor form a pair: "irascible" means easily angered, while "jaundiced" most commonly means yellow in complexion (from the medical condition) but can

also mean bitter or envious.

64. **Stemming from, engendered by.** If the editorialist is “on the board of the agency’s primary competitor,” then any attack on the ad campaign was probably written with ulterior motives. The blank should mean something like “coming from.” “Stemming from” and “engendered by” would both fit this meaning (“engendered” means created or produced). “Producing” and “creating” are a trap here; they would suggest that the editorial itself *created* the adversarial motives, which isn’t the case. The fact that the writer was on the board suggests that the adversarial motives led to the editorial, not vice versa. “Typifying” and “epitomized by” both suggest “being the ideal example of.” The sentence doesn’t suggest that the editorial is the *perfect* example of adversarial motives; it just implies that the piece was spawned by them.

65. **Apocryphal, spurious.** The sentence states that “rumor mongers” were writing about the climber’s “demise” but were later embarrassed to discover she made it to the summit. This would suggest that the reports were untrue, which both “apocryphal” and “spurious” mean. The sentence does not support the idea that the reports were “sentimental,” “saccharine” (excessively sweet), or “scandalous.” Trap answer “apocalyptic” ignores the clues in the sentence and is inappropriate for an event involving only one person, even if the outcome was tragic.

66. **Profitable, thriving.** Investments in the company “abated”—diminished or fell—dramatically, but this was “surprising.” Given this, the expectation must have been that any investments would either hold steady or increase, suggesting that the company had been expected to do well. “Profitable” and “thriving,” though not exact synonyms, both fit the meaning that the company was expected to do well. “Bankrupt” and “insolvent” are both traps; they are opposite the required meaning. “Subsidized” would add meaning not present in the sentence; perhaps the company will receive subsidies, but there is nothing in the sentence to suggest it. Likewise, it’s certainly possible that the company might have been “acquired,” but choosing that answer would mean creating a new narrative not present in the original sentence.

67. **Lax, slack.** The answers must parallel “slouching posture and cavalier attitude.” Note that cavalier is used here to mean offhand or disdainful. Thus, “aristocratic” is a bit of a trap answer, as are “murderous” and “barbarous,” which don’t match the clues—while this person’s actions caused horrific loss of life, it doesn’t sound as though that was his intention. “Petty” (of secondary or little importance) also doesn’t fit here. Thus, the correct answers are “lax” and “slack,” both of which mean not careful.

68. **Harmony, euphony.** If the composer’s latest work is a “major departure from” the “dissonance represented by her early compositions,” then the blank should be a word that means harmony or pleasant sound. In addition to the word “harmony” itself, “euphony” means pleasant sound, so these would both stand in contrast to “dissonance.” “Harshness” and “stridency,” on the other hand, are synonyms for “dissonance” and would therefore not be a departure at all. Neither “disparity” nor “creativity” contrasts with “dissonance,” nor does either choice have a pair among the other answers.

69. **Dally, tarry.** They were “already late” but still “preferred to lounge about,” or delay their departure for the party. Therefore, they continued to “dally” or “tarry.” The incorrect pair “lurk” and “skulk” has a negative, furtive connotation—the words are related to hanging around for some bad reason. Neither “embrace” nor “equivocate,” meaning to be vague in order to conceal some truth, has a pair, nor are there any hints in the sentence that would suggest that the couple did either of these.

70. **Appellations, sobriquets.** The spin of this sentence is positive—“staunch admirers”—and the player’s “given name was all but forgotten” (the expression “all but” means something like 99%). In other words, the player was given many nicknames; “appellations” and “sobriquets” both fit. Although “kudos” and “accolades,” which both mean praise, form a tempting

theme trap because the sentence talks about the player's admirers, neither captures the idea of a nickname. A "misnomer" is something of a nickname, but a false one, so it doesn't fit either. "Similes" is tricky because it sounds like "similar," but it is a figure of speech used to describe something by comparing it to something else, not a nickname.

71. **A desolate, an inhospitable.** The desert "supports a vibrant ecosystem teeming with life." "Teeming" means full of, so the desert is full of life, but only people who look deeply see that. The blank, then, must be filled by words that mean the opposite of full of life. "Desolate," which means bleakly empty, and "inhospitable," which when describing an environment means hard to live in, both fit: casual observers don't see much life in deserts. Although "arid" and "dessicated" both mean dried up and seem like good descriptions of a desert, they are not correct because they are not opposites of "teeming." "Verdant" and "lush" are a reversal trap, as both are used to describe an environment that is full of greenery and plant life.

72. **Extemporaneous, impromptu.** “Badly miscalculated” indicates that there are two opposing parts of the sentence: the candidate’s “prepared speeches” are good, but some other form of communication is bad. You need two words that mean improvised or off-the-cuff: “extemporaneous” and “impromptu” are a perfect fit. “Capricious” (whimsical or variable) is tempting but doesn’t pair as well as the two correct answers. “Lubricious” and “disingenuous” form a pair relating to dishonesty that is unrelated to the clues and might be a trap (if you insert your own, negative ideas about politicians). Finally, “premeditated” would apply to the “prepared speeches,” not the off-the-cuff communication.

73. **Unaffected, sincere.** Her friends think that she “projects an air of affability,” but this choice of words suggests the appearance of something that is not necessarily genuine. She appears affable, or friendly, but her friends have mixed feelings about this. The blank must mean something like genuine. “Sincere” isn’t too hard to spot as a match, but the other correct answer, “unaffected,” is a trickier word, used to describe someone who is genuine and sincere. “Amiable” and “genial” both mean friendly, and thus are trap answers that fit with the first half of the sentence but not the blank in the second half. “Magnanimity,” which means generosity, and “vexing,” which means annoying, are also not good fits.

74. **Abjured, forwent.** The founder did something bad enough to be threatened with a prison term. She is paying “fines and restitution” and she must also have to do something else negative (for her) relative to her role in the company. “Abjured” and “forwent” both work here; she is giving up her position and financial stake in the company. “Reneged” means to break a promise; she can’t “renege a role.” Similarly, a leader can be “deposed,” but you don’t depose a role. The hedge fund founder may be “censured” (probably worse), but it doesn’t make sense for her to “censure” (disapprove of, reprimand) her role. Finally, her actions may have “jeopardized” her role, but she wouldn’t sign a legal memorandum to do so.

75. **Breaching, contravening.** The sentence sets up a contrast: “adherents follow the letter of their particular tradition while” doing something else. This contrast is reinforced in the second half of the sentence, which points to a contradiction between “violence” and “love.” The blank must mean something like going against “the most basic ethical tenets,” making “breaching” and “contravening” correct. “Obeying” and “heeding,” which both mean follow, are trap answers and are opposite the required meaning. Neither “surpassing” nor “contracting” fits the required meaning, nor do these

choices have a pair among the other answers.

76. **Moribund, waning.** The sentence indicates that the number of PhD applicants in linguistics “has either grown or held steady in each of the past 15 years” while also suggesting that this fact is surprising. This could be surprising for a number of reasons, but the only words that would pair in this sentence are “moribund,” which means dying, and “waning,” which means growing smaller. “Waxing” and “burgeoning” do form a pair, but if the field were growing, it would not be a surprise that the number of applicants has also grown. Neither “dissolute” nor “debased,” which both mean lacking in morals, fits the desired meaning of the blank.

77. **Ephemeral, fleeting.** This sentence is about writers of the “contemplative persuasion,” meaning writers who are pensive and spend a lot of time in thought, and who have a tough time writing about a certain state of mind. The biggest clue to that state of mind is the phrase “passing thoughts and inconstant moods,” which means the answer will mean changeable, impermanent, or inconsistent. The best answers are “ephemeral” and “fleeting.” “Vestigial,” or a remnant of something, does not fit. “Essential” might work, but there’s no indication that the changeable aspects of the mind are necessary. “Evasive” (trying to avoid something) does not have the right meaning. “Inchoate,” meaning not fully formed, is tempting but does not form a pair with any other answer.

78. **Tacit, implicit.** The word “Though” sets up a contrast, so the blank needs to be something that means the opposite of “enumerated in rulebooks.” Both “tacit” and “implicit” mean implied but not plainly expressed and are the correct answer. “Unambiguous” and “blatant” do form a pair, but have the opposite meaning of the one required for the blank. Finally, “evanescent,” which means short-lived, and “incorrigible,” which means not able to be corrected, do not form a pair, nor do they fit the meaning of the sentence.

79. **Exacerbate, magnify.** While many people think antibiotics are great for everything (“a cure-all”), they can “actually” make the problem worse: they could “strengthen bacterial strains,” which is a bad thing. The two best answer choices are “exacerbate” and “magnify.” “Ameliorate,” or make better, is the exact opposite and so is incorrect. “Differentiate,” to distinguish, doesn’t fit the meaning either. “Distort” would mean that the problem is changed but not necessarily made worse. “Pathologize,” which means to view something as medically or psychologically unhealthy, is a tempting trap, as a bacterial infection is an unhealthy condition, but the meaning doesn’t match the idea of making a problem worse.

80. **Confounded, flummoxed.** The puzzle in question is one of the “more difficult cryptic crosswords,” so one would expect Sandra to be, well, puzzled by it. “Enraged” and “incensed” are an intriguing pair, but there is no reason to believe Sandra was made angry by the puzzle. “Smitten” can’t work here because the correct idiom is smitten with. “Impressed” might work, but it doesn’t have a pair word (since “smitten” can’t be correct). “Confounded” and “flummoxed” both mean perplexed and are correct.

81. **Impervious, inimical.** The “while” at the beginning of this sentence indicates that the opening phrase, “teachers say they are keen on the idea of participatory pedagogy,” will be contrasted with the second idea, that teachers “often have little understanding of what participatory practices entail.” The part of the sentence following the semicolon confirms this reality with observations of how teachers actually act in classrooms. The blank, then, must be filled with a word describing how teachers are “in fact” likely to behave: not able or likely to change. Both “impervious” and “inimical” fit this meaning. “Amenable” and “prone” are not a true pair, nor do they match with the observations of how teachers actually behave. “Reconciled” and “resigned” are a pair that would mean the teachers are changing their behavior, but the sentence indicates that this is not so.

82. **Approbation, plaudits.** The filmmaker received “acclaim,” while the subject of the documentary did not. “Approbation” and “plaudits” are both

synonyms for acclaim and are correct. “Opprobrium” and “fulmination,” which both mean strong criticism or protest, reflect the opposite of the required meaning, while “wealth” and “capital” don’t fit the meaning of the sentence.

83. **Exculpate, vindicate.** Morris’s film demonstrated that its subject “did not commit” the crime in question; in other words, the film demonstrated his innocence. Both “exculpate” and “vindicate” mean to clear someone of blame or suspicion and are a perfect match. “Incarcerate” is the opposite of what the sentence suggests, while “inter” means to place in a grave or tomb. “Excuse” means to lessen the blame or forgive someone for a fault, but not to prove they were not at fault in the first place. Finally, of the incorrect answer choices, “manumit” is closest in meaning, but is the act of freeing a slave, not a prisoner.

84. **Randomness, happenstance.** The subject matter of this sentence, “cause-and-effect relationships,” makes “causality” and “intentionality” very tempting answers. However, most people *do* understand causality (or at least think they do) so the blank, which represents something that people don’t understand, is going to mean the exact opposite of “straightforward and direct” causality, such as “randomness” or “happenstance.” “Mathematics” and “science” may be difficult for some people to understand, but a solid understanding of causality would actually help people understand those subjects, so they are incorrect choices.

85. **Laziness, sloth.** On the one hand, the professor believes that all her students are “well-qualified academically.” On the other hand, some students do poorly in the professor’s class. So if they’re doing poorly despite being qualified, she assumes that each of these students isn’t trying hard.

“Ineptness” and “incompetence” make for a really appealing pair here, as both could describe a student who is doing poorly in a class. However, this pair does not also account for the fact that the students are “well-qualified” and, therefore, can’t be considered inept. “Laziness” and “sloth,” which means laziness or a reluctance to work, both fill this blank nicely and are the correct answers. It’s worth noticing the other pair here, “moral turpitude” and “amorality,” both of which mean a lack of morals. While the students might be lazy, there is no evidence that their poor performance has anything to do with their morals.

86. **An incipient, a nascent.** While the environmental movement has been around awhile, it has only recently become a “serious organization.” In other words, the movement can be said to be relatively new, in a way. The answer choices “disorganized” and “nebulous” don’t fit that meaning. The other pair, “inconsequential” and “immaterial,” is needlessly negative. “Incipient” and “nascent” capture the idea that, while the movement has been around for a while, it is only just now becoming a serious and relevant organization.

87. **Bolstered, buttressed.** It is critical to work out here whether the physicists mentioned at the end of the sentence were for or against Einstein’s theory. The sentence suggests that the idea went from “purely experiential” to “theoretically” something. There’s a contrast here, and the contrast is not between right and wrong. It is between something that has been shown by experiment and something that has been understood theoretically. The later scientists are providing support for Einstein. “Undermined” and “sabotaged” are negative, while “condoned” and “pardoned” don’t fit the meaning. Only “bolstered” and “buttressed” correctly express the idea of support.

88. **Manacled, fettered.** They wanted to “keep the prisoner _____,” but the “restraints would prejudice the jury.” So the plan must have been to keep this prisoner restrained. “Manacled” and “fettered” are very close synonyms that mean chained or restrained and are, therefore, the correct pair.

“Incensed,” meaning “angry,” pairs somewhat nicely with “nettled,” meaning irritated or annoyed. While they make a good pair, they do not mean restrained. Neither “malleable,” meaning bendable or easily influenced, nor “incomparable” fit the context of the sentence.

89. **Artless, ingenuous.** The painter is “unlike” others who are “pretentious and egotistical.” In other words, he is not pretentious or egotistical. “Artless” and “ingenuous,” meaning without effort or pretentiousness, are perfect. “Shrewd,” “adroit,” and “artful” each mean clever or skillful and “selfless” means unselfish; none of these four traits contrasts with “pretentious and egotistical.”

90. **Trite, hackneyed.** The movie “had laughs” but the jokes were old or unoriginal. The jokes, then, were not *bad* so much as “trite” or “hackneyed,” both of which mean unoriginal. “Atrocious” and “egregious” mean the same thing as bad, so they don’t work. And while “amusing” and “witty” make a pair, they are the opposite of what the sentence intends to say.

91. **Underpins, undergirds.** The company’s “unsuccessful products manage” to look very good, so this “obsession with aesthetics” is found throughout or permeates the company’s work. Both “underpins” and “undergirds” fit this meaning. “Irradiates” means either to expose to radiation or to illuminate. “Underserves” means to fail to provide adequate services and does not make sense here. “Saturates” and “overwhelms” might be thought of as a pair, but would not be used in the same context, nor would these extreme words best fit the sentence.

92. **Thwarted, undermined.** The end of this sentence makes it clear that the teachers in question are not happy about having to “cleave,” or stick, to a prescribed curriculum because it prevented them from teaching in a “creative and dynamic” way. “Crushed,” “confounded,” “walloped,” and “tormented” are all negative, but all of them miss the meaning of the sentence (and no two of them make a good pair). On the other hand, “thwarted” and “undermined” fit the context: the teachers were prevented from teaching in the way they felt best.

93. **Palliating, assuaging.** The government can lower interest rates to maintain “a certain level of financial stability,” but it can’t do so too often or it may not be able to handle or manage a future crisis. “Interring” is a difficult GRE word meaning to place a corpse in a grave or tomb. “Exacerbating” and “compounding” are the opposite of the desired meaning. Only “palliating” and “assuaging,” both of which mean easing or diminishing, correctly fit the meaning here; “annihilating” goes too far.

94. **Laconic, curt.** The words “[e]ven though” set up a contrast: Mariposa’s latest character does not have a lot of lines, so she will need to rely more on physical acting. Mariposa’s character might be quite “dramatic,” but that would not contrast with the roles that involved many lines. “Melancholy” and “dejected” imply sadness, but not necessarily a refusal to speak (Hamlet is pretty depressed and he talks all the time). “Mute” goes too far: one can’t be more mute; rather, one would be mute if that person had no lines at all. “Laconic” and “curt” both match the idea that her character is not very talkative. Note that “curt” has the sense of being rudely short with people, whereas “laconic” is not necessarily negative, and while they aren’t perfect synonyms, the two correct answer choices do provide a similar meaning to the sentence.

95. **Incendiary, demagogic.** The sentence is quite complex. It can often be helpful to reduce such a sentence down to its main core—eliminating the tacked-on modifiers—and then add the extra information back in as needed.

Doing so here leaves you with: “The _____ nature of Thomas Paine’s political diatribes is now downplayed by government officials.” The word “datribes” denotes strongly negative speech or writing, and, as such, their “nature” would more likely be controversial or fiery than understated or restrained. “Pallid,” which means pale or weak, forms a close, but incorrect, pair with “anemic.” “Antithetical” works superficially—it means directly opposed or mutually incompatible but it doesn’t connote a nature that would need to be downplayed. “Deferential,” meaning respectful, is the opposite of the needed meaning. That leaves the correct pair: “incendiary,” which means inflammatory and provocative, and “demagogic,” which refers to verbiage intended to arouse strong negative sentiments (usually against an established power).

96. **Phlegmatic, dispassionate.** The people who disliked the spy thought his demeanor was “taciturn,” meaning reserved or uncommunicative, or “brusque,” meaning abrupt or blunt. Because those descriptives are given from the people who dislike the spy, look for words that describe those same qualities in a more neutral, or even positive, manner. “Histrionic” and “melodramatic” are a great pair, but, as is so often the case, they mean exactly the opposite of what the blank needs: overly theatrical and exaggerated. “Hirsute” is a tough word that actually means hairy, and there’s nothing to suggest that the spy is feeling “melancholic,” or sad. That leaves just two words. “Phlegmatic” means calm, cool, and collected, and “dispassionate” means unemotional and composed; both are more positive versions of “taciturn or brusque.”

97. **Melancholy, morose.** The key to this sentence comes at the very end, when the sentence says that Hamlet is not “paralyzed with depression,” or generally depressed. “Indecisive” and “monologic” both fit the famous character of Hamlet, but they don’t fit the sentence (nor do they make a pair). Similarly, “violent” and “barbaric” would be accurate in describing someone who committed a “killing spree,” but they don’t fit the blank. Only “melancholy” and “morose” match the idea that he was depressed.

98. **Anomalous, aberrant.** The word “once” signals a change in the direction of meaning. As the sentence ends with the idea that the behaviors in question “were once considered normal,” you need something for the blank that means uncommon. “Mythical” and “fabulous” may seem to fit, but they’re too extreme. “Anomalous” and “aberrant,” which both mean deviating from an expected standard, fit. “Importunate,” meaning persistent, may rhyme with “unfortunate,” but that’s about all they have in common.

99. **Mundane, quotidian.** While things that are “fantastical” can be “the domain of the novel,” Proust proved that other things can also be. The blank needs to contrast with “the fantastical.” “Mundane” and “quotidian” are the correct answer pair. “Cosmopolitan” means cultured or glamorous and is the opposite of what the sentence requires. “Bombastic” and “belletristic,” both of which mean pompous or ostentatious, do not contrast with “fantastical.” Finally, “literary” is a trap since a novel is a piece of literature.

100. **Pith, gist.** In this sentence, the key words are “very busy woman,” implying that the editor doesn’t have a lot of free time. It would be necessary to get right to the most important part of the issue. “Conclusion” and “culmination” are a pair, but they mean the end, which isn’t quite right. “Pith” and “gist” (the essence of something) are a much better match for the blank.

“Apex,” or climax, and “genesis,” or beginning, not only do not form a pair, but also do not fit the meaning.

101. **Exceptional, precocious.** Though people used to believe the boy was “less than clever,” the “but” indicates that he actually was clever. In fact, he wrote a “complex and beautiful symphony” at the young age of 16, which suggests he is a prodigy, or child genius. “Precocious,” meaning advanced for his age, and “exceptional,” or extraordinary, are good descriptions for a child prodigy. “Musical” is a tempting answer, but the word doesn’t have anything to do with his cleverness, nor does it have a matching answer choice.

“Monastic” and “hermetic” might appeal as answer choices, due to his “reclusive” nature, but they do not fit with other clues in the sentence. Note that “hermetic” doesn’t actually mean “like a hermit”; it means “airtight.”

102. **Stress, underscore.** The part of the sentence after the colon is an example illustrating the point made in the first part of the sentence. Since Fry “argues” that rhythm is more important than deeper meaning, the corresponding first part, “meter,” is more important than “words.” These poets are proclaiming “the primacy of meter over words.” The correct answers “stress” and “underscore” convey this meaning. The much milder pair, “acknowledge” and “allow,” doesn’t fit because their intensity doesn’t match that of “argues.” “Immolate” is a great GRE vocabulary word that means to burn as a sacrifice, which, although interesting, is definitely not the desired meaning here. “Decry” is another great word that means to publicly denounce, but it also does not fit.

103. **Inevitably, unavoidably.** The clues here—“Time stops for no man” and “as had every preceding style of music”—suggest that rock and roll suffered the same fate that all music and all people eventually do. It “inevitably” or “unavoidably” joined the “culture of the old.” The sentence does not provide information to believe that this happens “accidentally” nor its opposite, “deliberately.” Similarly for “resolutely” and “painfully,” the sentence does not provide a clue to suggest that this is how it became “a part of the culture of the old.”

104. **Hankering, proclivity.** The word “and” signals agreement between two parts of the sentence. Isherwood had “fellow feeling for the laboring classes”; that is, he was sympathetic with working people and so had a desire to engage as an equal with them. “Hankering” and “proclivity” are the nearest synonyms. “Disinclination” and “unwillingness” are the opposite of the required meaning and “implacability,” which means not able to be appeased, also suggests a negative tone that is opposite what the sentence requires. “Joviality” (friendliness) is tempting because it is positive, but it does not fit the meaning of the blank.

105. **Germane, pertinent.** “Though” implies that the matters about which a professor enjoys “liberty of speech” are opposite those “irrelevant to his subject,” so the blank might mean something like relevant. “Germane” and “pertinent” are the best synonyms. “Mimetic” and “congruent” are slightly related to the idea at hand—the former means copying (like a mime, for instance) and the latter means something like similar or in agreement. “Indifferent” and “disinterested” might seem like a pair, but “indifferent” means uninterested or apathetic, while “disinterested” means unbiased. Neither word fits nor do they form a pair.

106. **Rue, remorse.** The sentence states that uncontrolled passion can lead to

something bad. The answer should be close to sorrow, perhaps something like regret. “Rue” and “remorse” are the nearest synonyms and are therefore the correct answer pair. “Disdain” and “contempt” are also synonyms, but anger and sorrow do not pair as well as regret and sorrow. “Pity” might work if it had a pair in the answer choices, while “affinity” has no pair and also doesn’t have the same negative tone that the other answer choices have.

107. **Exhaustive, sweeping.** Since the tremendous wealth on display represents only a tiny fraction of the collection, and since the collection has “over one million specimens,” it is a very large collection indeed. You might anticipate an answer like huge. “Exhaustive,” which means including everything, and “sweeping,” which means extensive, both fit. If a collection is “piecemeal,” it would have been acquired piece by piece over time. Likely as that might be, there’s no clue in the sentence that would suggest this. “Volatile” means talkative and does not fit, nor does “evergreen,” which means fresh or popular. Finally, “commanding” means authoritative or imposing, and there’s no reason to believe that the collection commands authority over other collections.

108. **Mordant, trenchant.** The best clue in this sentence is its parallel structure. The judge's keen eye "was surpassed only by the _____ wit with which she castigated them." Keen means sharply discerning, so look for words that denote a sharpness, or bitingness, of wit. "Mordant" and "trenchant," both of which are close in meaning to sharp and discerning, are best. Don't be confused by the other set of synonyms, "assiduous" and "sedulous," both of which have meanings close to diligent. "Jurisprudent," which means skilled in the principles of law, is a trap for those thinking about words that might describe a judge. And someone who is "obtuse" would be slow-witted, a word that is the opposite of what the sentence intends.

109. **Beseeched, supplicated.** The inmate is begging, pleading, imploring the probation panel to be set free. "Beseeched" and "supplicated" are closest to this meaning. A person might "receive" a group of individuals if he or she were welcoming them, but this doesn't match the intended meaning of the sentence, nor does it match with any other of the answer choices. "Conceded" isn't the right word either, nor would you concede a group of people (unless you were giving them away to someone else). Finally, both "chided" and "snubbed" have a negative connotation and are the opposite of how the inmate was acting towards the probation panel.

110. **A fanatical, a zealous.** The loyalty of the cult members "verged on the obsessive"; use that same description to fill the blank. "Fanatical" and "zealous" are best here. An obsessive loyalty would definitely not be "arbitrary" or "fickle," nor would it be "indeterminate," or undefined. Finally, while others might be mortified by such loyalty, the loyalty itself would not be "mortifying."

111. **Grievous, baneful.** The evils described by this word are more "pernicious," or harmful, than ... well, it doesn't even really matter—you want a word like "pernicious." Perhaps very bad. "Grievous," which means causing grief or very harmful, will work. "Baneful" is an even closer synonym to "pernicious." Note that you could also find the correct answer by noticing that none of the other four options have a pair in the sentence. "Venerable" means respected, "epicurean" means related to fine food and wine, and "fastidious" means very attentive to detail, all of which have the incorrect tone for the blank. Finally, "reactionary" means opposed to political or social reform, which also doesn't fit the sentence.

112. **Hegemony, dominance.** Just as once “every subject eventually had to meet theology’s demands,” both physical science and social science must now meet mathematics’ demands. This suggests that mathematics enjoys something like rule over these fields; the phrase “Queen of the Sciences” suggests the same. “Hegemony” usually describes the dominance of one state over others, but can also mean the dominance of one social group, political party, etc. “Dominance” will also work. If you anticipated the word autocratic, “autonomy” might be attractive, especially as a pair with “independence,” but autocratic describes government by a single person with unlimited powers, while autonomy means self-governance. Finally, neither “mayhem” nor “credence” have a pair in the answer choices with a similar meaning, nor do they convey a meaning that matches with the clues in the sentence.

113. **Ephemeral, fleeting.** Something “lasting a millionth of a billionth of a billionth of a second” is very short-lived. “Ephemeral” and “fleeting” have just this meaning. In real life, the particles may be small (“infinitesimal”), there may be a lot of them (“myriad,” “countless”), and they may bring a tear to the eye of a few scientists (“poignant”), but none of these are indicated by clues in the sentence.

114. **Collaborative, synergetic.** The word “While” indicates that the “later contributions” were achieved in a manner opposite to “single-handedly.” Both “collaborative” and “synergetic” mean working together or in a group. Note that trap answers “solitary” and “unilateral” are the opposite of the required meaning, and “collusive” has the wrong spin—to collude is to cooperate for illegal or fraudulent purposes. Finally, “exegetic” means explanatory or interpretive, which isn’t the right meaning, nor does it have a pair in the answer choices.

115. **A coup, an achievement.** The sentence suggests that despite the unimpressive media coverage of the event, the organizers were still pleased. The second part of the sentence states one specific positive aspect of the event: a “mass of everyday people” attended. Therefore, the best pair of words here would be “coup” and “achievement,” both of which can mean a successful move, and both of which match the positive feelings that the organizers felt. A “miracle” (a highly improbable event that can’t be explained by science) is too strong. Of the remaining options, “blemish” and “debacle” form a pair, but they contradict the intended meaning of the sentence. Finally, “exception” does not work since it does not have a pair.

116. **Retort, rejoinder.** Churchill makes a witty comeback. “Retort” and

“rejoinder” are perfect. “Recrimination,” meaning an accusation, does not fit. A witty reply is not an “anecdote,” nor is it an “aphorism” or “maxim” (both of which mean a short statement containing some general truth or wisdom).

117. **Fancied, relished.** The teacher was “well-loved by students” but didn’t love or enjoy “the work of teaching.” In fact, he had “deep-seated anxieties” about certain aspects of teaching. “Fancied” and “relished” are the correct pair. Of the incorrect answer choices, “appreciated” is most similar to the correct answers, but there is no clue in the sentence that would suggest that the teacher did not appreciate the work he did. While “abhorred” and “detested” are synonyms, their meaning is the opposite of what the clues suggest. Finally, “ascertained” does not fit the required meaning, nor does it have a pair among the answers.

118. **Stickler, disciplinarian.** Pay close attention to the directional words “no,” “although,” and “in truth.” “Although” suggests a turn in the sentence; the teacher had to “maintain the appearance of,” or pretend to be, “an authority figure,” while, in reality, she was “no” strict person. Both a “stickler” and a “disciplinarian” are strict people, so these are the correct answer choices. “Educator” and “scholar” are words that are associated with teachers, but they don’t mean strict. A “luminary” is a prominent and inspiring person, but there is no evidence in the sentence that the teacher is such a person. “Delinquent” is also not a good match for strict.

119. **Guileless, naïve.** If the actress can recognize when people are trying to trick her or manipulate her, she’s definitely not overly innocent, gullible, or easily fooled. The two best answers that mean innocent and gullible are “guileless” and “naïve.” “Disingenuous” and “cunning” would be more appropriate in describing her “crafty handlers,” while “talented” and “sophisticated” don’t have pairs among the other answers and don’t match the desired meaning.

120. **Virulence, acrimony.** The blank in this sentence describes “recent national political discourse,” which is referred to as “hateful rhetoric” at the end of the sentence. While the other options in this question could possibly describe a person’s opinion on political discourse, the only words that could match “hateful” are “virulence” and “acrimony,” both of which mean harsh or full of malice. “Partisanship” and “intransigence” form a pair, since each means biased or unlikely to compromise, but without anything in the sentence suggesting that people are not willing to compromise, the pair does not work here. Neither “shortsightedness” nor “miscalculation” mean “hateful,” nor do these two words form a pair.

121. **Radical, immoderate.** There is a contrast between what Martin Luther King, Jr. was really like and how he is generally perceived today. The sentence contains two important clues. First, he went through a “process of canonization” posthumously (after his death), meaning that he was turned into a saint-like figure in the popular imagination. Second, during the process, his “more palatable” (pleasing or easy to agree with) “and less far-reaching political and social visions became prominent.” It must be true, then, that he had less palatable, more far-reaching visions that are now overlooked. The word in the blank should mean something like revolutionary or boundary-pushing. “Radical” and “immoderate” both fit this meaning. Ineffective,” “politic” (sensible), “incongruous” (not in harmony with the surroundings), and “raucous” (very loud or harsh) do not fit the required meaning.

122. **Costly, dear.** The council was looking to “offset ... expenses,” so the renovation project must have been more expensive than planned. “Costly” fits, as does “dear,” which can indeed mean expensive. Using secondary definitions is one of the GRE’s favorite traps. “Fortuitous” and “timely” could make a reasonable pair, but those two, along with “subtle,” don’t fit the meaning of the sentence. “Unexpected” could fit the meaning but it does not have a pair among the answers.

123. **Discretionary, voluntary.** “Aviation authorities” issued “guidelines,” or “recommendations,” but there is an “absence of definitive laws.” The guidelines are not legally required; rather, they are “voluntary” or “discretionary.” “Firm” and “unvarying” are the opposite of what is needed. “Insufficient” goes too far—there is no judgment that the guidelines were “not enough,” just that they weren’t definitive. “Regular” is a versatile word that can mean everything from constituting a pattern to happening habitually or happening frequently.

124. **Quotidian, mundane.** The show “claimed to display the _____ side of the starlet’s life,” but those claims cannot be true because “her daily endeavors were far too sensational.” The blank needs to say something along the lines of “unsensational.” The pair “unusual” and “exotic” means the opposite. “Plastic” has many meanings, none of which apply very well here, and it doesn’t have a pair. Finally, when down to “predictable,” “quotidian,” and “mundane,” choose the best pair. “Predictable” is a near miss here. It doesn’t necessarily mean “unsensational” because things could be predictably sensational. “Quotidian” means unsensational, everyday, just like “mundane,” so these are the best answer choices.

125. **Mistaken, untrue.** Prognosticators are people who predict the future, and, according to the sentence, listening to them is a “problem” because no one holds them accountable for their predictions today. This idea is echoed in the idiomatic phrase “for every X there are Y,” where X and Y contrast. So, for every “accurate prediction” there are “several others” that are *not* accurate. “Mistaken” and “untrue” fit this definition. A false or inaccurate prediction might be unintentionally “misleading,” but describing a statement as “misleading” typically implies lack of clarity or deliberate deception; this goes too far, and “mistaken” and “untrue” pair better with each other than either does with “misleading.” Both “unforeseen” and “surprising” mean unexpected, so these form an answer pair. However, the context is wrong: an inaccurate prediction might make the ultimate outcome unexpected, but this blank describes the other predictions themselves. A hurried, or “hasty,” prediction might or might not turn out to be inaccurate, but there are no indications of prediction speed in the sentence.

126. **Culpable, complicit.** “Allegations” are unproven claims that someone has done something wrong or illegal, so if they “turn out to be true,” the administrators would be found to be guilty or deserving of blame. This is further supported by the negative results: “the university may lose its accreditation” and the perpetrators “might never be able to be employed in higher education again.” The answers “culpable” (deserving blame) and “complicit” (collaborating with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing) both fit the meaning of the sentence and produce sentences that are alike in meaning. “Repentant” and “contrite” are an answer pair meaning remorseful or guilt-ridden, which is close, but goes a bit too far: the sentence indicates they may be “found” guilty but not necessarily that they feel badly about it. The remaining choices are unpaired and not a good fit for the blank anyway. “Synoptic,” which is related to the word “synopsis,” means forming a summary. When referring to people, “unsound” means unreliable or not

competent.

127. **Immoderate, extreme.** In this sentence, the author has described unions as “always inimical” (meaning harmful or hostile) to economic growth. If even his “adherents,” his devoted followers or admirers, could not take this claim seriously, then this claim must be too far-fetched to believe.

“Immoderate” (exceeding reasonable limits) and “extreme” both fit this meaning well. “Temperate” and “lax” would both indicate the opposite—a relaxed or balanced position. And though the author’s writing might be “impressive” or “splendid,” neither of those would make the characterization hard to take seriously.

128. **Catering to, pandering to.** Pynchon “ignored the sensibilities of the general public rather than” paying attention to them. “Catering to” and “pandering to” best match this meaning. “Cowering to” and “recoiling from” are a little too dramatic and extreme for this sentence. Neither “coping with” nor “commiserating with” fits the intended meaning (nor do they have a pair among the answers).

129. **Malleable, pliant.** “Many sociologists” think “humans are _____,” “but” a certain event leads the writer to conclude that “human nature is immutable,” or unable to change. Therefore, the blank needs to mean changeable. “Monolithic” means large and indivisible and “homogenous” means uniform or unvaried, so neither of these match the desired meaning. “Heterogeneous” and “variegated” (having a lot of variety) are tempting, but variety is not the same thing as change. The best choices are “malleable” and “pliant,” which each mean physically bendable and, secondarily, easily influenced or changeable.

130. **Brandishes, wields.** Note that all the choices are verbs, so “a strapping hero often [does something to/with] a rapier,” which is a thin pointed sword used for thrusting; the hero’s action is later referred to as a “display of force.” The blank might be something like “uses,” or some verb more specific to how a rapier is used, such as “thrusts”. To “sheathe” a weapon is to put it away (in a sheath, which is a cover for a blade); this is the opposite of using it in a “display of force.” Ideas or information can be “promulgated” or “disseminated,” meaning spread, communicated, or publicized, so these choices form an answer pair. However, swords cannot be “promulgated” or “disseminated,” so the answer pair doesn’t work in this context. To “cauterize” is to burn skin or flesh to stop bleeding or seal a wound, so this choice is unpaired and does not match the required meaning. The synonyms “brandish” and “wield” in this context indicate that the hero held and waved the rapier as a threat. These choices agree with the “display of force” characterization of the action.

131. **Cautious, conservative.** Gupta’s policies are “prudent,” meaning thoughtful, and “progressive,” while also “remaining _____ about imposing drastic social changes.” The word “while” indicates a contrast, so the party is likely being careful not to do anything drastic. Both “cautious” and “conservative” fit well. “Passionate” and “fervent” are a great pair, but the meaning is the opposite of what you want. “Congealed” (took shape or coalesced) does not match the required meaning and “concerned,” while tempting, does not have a pair among the answers.

132. **Plodding, pedestrian.** That the economy expands at a certain pace is described as “a problem.” This happens when “wages of the middle class are stagnant,” showing no activity or only sluggishly growing. The blank, then, likely refers to a sluggish or slow pace of economic expansion. “Lucrative” and “profitable” are synonymous with each other, but imply economic growth, which would not be a problem. An “exponential” pace would be one

that increases at a faster and faster rate, which is opposite the idea of “stagnant” wages or a “problem” with the economy. If the economy expands at a “normal” pace, the expansion is typical or expected, which is not negative enough. Only “plodding,” which means slow-moving, and “pedestrian,” which means dull, fit the meaning of the sentence and produce sentences that are alike in meaning.

133. **Profuse, prolific.** First, examine the structure of the sentence to determine the role of the blank. “The abilities of microorganisms to [do something] are more _____ than is commonly thought: from [X], to [Y], their innovative capabilities know no end.” The blank describes the “abilities.” The colon indicates that examples will follow of what is meant by the first part of the sentence. In the idiom “from X, to Y,” the examples X and Y are just two abilities, and the idiom suggests a range of other abilities in between. This is further supported by “their innovative capabilities know no end.” Thus, the blank should be a synonym for “unlimited.” The synonyms “profuse” and “prolific” mean abundant or plentiful, which fits the desired meaning. “Advantageous” and “beneficial” are synonyms meaning favorable or leading to good results. “Accommodating” forms something of a false triple with the previous pair: it means obliging someone else’s wishes and, like “beneficial,” is a synonym for helpful. Any of these could describe “abilities,” but none of the three address the meaning of the idiom or of capabilities that “know no end.” Finally, “ineffectual” means unproductive, so this choice is not only unpaired, it is also nearly opposite the intended meaning.

134. **Atypical, anomalous.** In chess, a “gambit” is an opening move that sacrifices something (such as a pawn) in exchange for some other competitive advantage; such a move typically involves some risk. “Gambit” is also used outside of chess to mean a tactic or calculated move. (This is not the only chess term that can also be used figuratively: “pawn” is another.) Polgar has a “reputation for conservative,” or non-risky play, but lately she has been using a lot of “gambits.” The blank requires an adjective to describe these “gambits,” and might be filled with something like “risky.” “Treacherous” can mean deceitful or it can mean hazardous or risky, either of which could apply to “gambits” intended to take some advantage from an opponent. However, no other choice matches either definition. “Abstruse,” meaning difficult to understand, is not the same as risky. Polgar might be “studious” about determining which gambits to use, but “studious” is both out of context in the blank and unpaired. “Atypical” and “anomalous” both mean unusual or different from what is expected. This pair works because Polgar has a reputation for one type of play, but has been exhibiting another type. “Impractical” on its own is quite tempting, because “impractical” play seems almost opposite “conservative play,” but it does not have a match among the other choices and so cannot be correct.

135. **Hobble, hamstring.** The politician who currently holds office would have to be deep in denial about the dissatisfaction of her constituency to think that “pandering advertisements would do anything but _____ her campaign.” When a politician’s communications are described as “pandering,” it means that they are intended to please the group that they are trying to appeal to and are not sincere. A group that has been upset with a politician for a while is not likely to be impressed by this, so her campaign would likely be harmed by such advertisements. The correct answers, “hobble” and “hamstring,” literally mean to cripple the legs of an animal, and are used figuratively to mean to prevent the campaign from being able to take off. “Bolster,” which means to support or strengthen, “encourage,” and “restore” are almost opposites of the desired meaning and so are not correct. “Aggrieve” is tricky because it is negative, but it means to make resentful and so does not quite fit.

136. **Steadfast, unwavering.** A person who is “equivocal in making decisions” is uncertain; he keeps changing his mind or not making a final decision. The phrase “Though often” in this sentence indicates that the blank will contrast with “equivocal.” In addition, the nouns “resolve,” which means firm determination or decision, and “verdict,” a decision or judgment, reinforce the idea that the blank should be something like definite. The two

answers that best match are “steadfast” and “unwavering,” which are synonyms meaning resolute or not wavering. “Vague” means uncertain or indefinite and “vacillating” means wavering or alternating between different options. These form an answer pair, but one that is the opposite of what the blank requires. “Apprehensive” is similar to, though not exactly a synonym of, “vague” or “vacillating”: someone who is fearful that something bad will happen might hesitate to make a decision, but not necessarily. “Critical” doesn’t directly address the question of decisiveness implied by the sentence, and has a negative connotation not supported by the sentence.

137. **Manageable, reasonable.** The proposal will “maximize efficiency” and do something to class sizes, but surprisingly parents and teachers are “resoundingly opposed.” Both items, then, must be positive: despite the fact that they will “maximize efficiency” and have good “class sizes,” people still don’t like the plan. Both “manageable” and “reasonable” fit. “Flexible” is probably the word most similar, but “flexible” class sizes are not necessarily a positive; it could be tough if students kept coming and going. “Remedial” (intended to fix or cure) does not fit, nor does it have a pair. And while classes might be considered “unwieldy” or “deficient,” those words are not similar nor do they fit the required meaning.

138. **An obstacle to, a hurdle for.** The blank in this sentence is describing the bridge player's errors and the effect that they had on his defeat. These errors are "frustrating for his partner," but his competitors were unable to determine "what cards he likely held" or "how to block his plays." These two clues suggest that the bridge player was doing something helpful for himself or his team, thereby preventing defeat. The best pair of words, then, is "an obstacle to" and "a hurdle for," suggesting that the errors prevented his (immediate) defeat. The other four options all give opposite meaning to this sentence, though in different degrees of certainty. "An insurance against" and "the guarantee of" would indicate that defeat was imminent, while "the reason for" and "an indication of" would suggest it was likely.

139. **Generalizable, universal.** The colon in this sentence introduces an illustration of how or why the medical study is deficient. The study "assumes" one thing about the results, "however" something else is actually true. The blank, then, must contrast with "experimental participants were exclusively men between the ages of 30 and 60 with no significant co-morbidities." It helps to know that "co-morbidities" are multiple diseases present simultaneously in a patient, but if you didn't, the sentence provides enough other clues to answer correctly. The "glaring deficiency" is that the "experimental participants" included no females, no under-30- or over-60-year-olds, and no people with "significant co-morbidities." In other words, the study was limited to a pretty specific group, so the contrasting blank should be something like "not limited." Results that are "generalizable" can be broadly applied; "universal" results are applicable to all cases. These synonyms correctly allude to the study flaws that follow "however." The adjective "positive" can mean a variety of things, including good, affirmative, optimistic, useful, or definite. When describing "results," none of those meanings addresses the study flaws listed. A similar choice is "promising," or showing signs of future success. While it would be wrong to assume that "results are promising" when the "study contains a glaring deficiency," such an assumption is not itself an example of the deficiency. "Singular" and "exceptional" both mean remarkable or unusual—almost the opposite of "universal."