

GRE 填空 500 机经

第二版



GRE 教研组



考满分 GRE 填空机经 500 题难度分级版（第 2 版）

编写说明：本资料为市面上最受欢迎的 GRE 填空机经 500 题难度分级版，在编辑过程中，本书将题目进行了文字校对，答案校对和难度分级，希望用分级的难度让学生能够更好地去完成这些题目。难度分级的依据主要是由考满分网页上机经题目学生的做题情况数据汇总而来，根据题目正确率来对题目进行了难度分级，然后根据 easy, median 和 hard 三种难度对每一个 section 进行难度分级（难度是由整个 section 体现）。

参加各类 ViS 课程的同学，请遵循老师对于本资料的特别使用建议，以期达到本资料的最大化价值：通过最新题目熟练内化解题思路方法。

坚持自学备考 GRE 的同学，一定要注意到机经题目的双面性，切勿陷入盲目刷题、拼手气、比运气的陷阱。无论如何，思路方法能力，永远都比刷题重要，质量永远比数量重要。

通过本资料，希望所有勇于挑战 GRE 的同学都能养成依据客观证据作决策，思路清晰作判断的思维方法。我们相信，对于你在国外的学习生活、归国后的工作人生，这种思维方法才是更重要的。

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section 1 easy

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

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

2. My grandma has a strong belief in all things _____: she insists, for example, that the house in which she lived as a child was haunted.

- A. clamorous
- B. invidious
- C. numinous
- D. empirical
- E. sonorous

3. The (i)_____ of molecular oxygen on Earth-sized planets around other stars in the universe would not be (ii)_____ sign of life: molecular oxygen can be a signature of photosynthesis (a biotic process) or merely of the rapid escape of water from the upper reaches of a planetary atmosphere (an abiotic process).

A. dearth	D. a controversial
B. presumption	E. an unambiguous
C. detection	F. a possible

4. Given the (i)_____ the committees and the (ii)_____ nature of its investigation, it would be unreasonable to gainsay the committee's conclusions at first glance.

A. sterling reputation of	D. superficial
B. lack of finding of	E. spontaneous
C. ad hoc existence of	F. exhaustive

5. The skin of the poison dart frog contains deadly poisons called batrachotoxins. But the (i)_____ of the toxins has remained an enigma, as the frog does not (ii)_____ them. Now an analysis suggests that the melyrid beetle is the source. Collected beetle specimens all contained batrachotoxins, suggesting that these beetles are (iii)_____ by the frogs.

A. effect	D. pressure	G. eaten
B. origin	E. produce	H. neutralized
C. purpose	F. suffer from	I. poisoned

6. Now that photographic prints have become a popular field for collecting, auctions are becoming more (i)_____. It is not just the entry of new collectors into the field that is causing this intensification. Established collectors' interests are also becoming more (ii)_____. Those who once concentrated on the work of either the nineteenth-century pioneers or the twentieth-century modernists are now keen to have (iii)_____ collections.

A. competitive	D. fickle	G. comprehensive
B. tedious	E. wide-ranging	H. legitimate
C. exclusive	F. antiquarian	I. impressive

7. The beauty of the scientific approach is that even when individual researchers do _____ bias or partiality, others can correct them using a framework of evidence on which everyone broadly agrees.

- A. overreact to
- B. deviate from
- C. succumb to
- D. recoil from
- E. yield to
- F. shrink from

8. The reconstruct known work is beautiful and also probably _____: it is the only Hebrew verse written by a woman.

- A. singular
- B. unique
- C. archaic
- D. counterfeit
- E. valuable
- F. fake

9. In a book that inclines to _____, an epilogue arguing that ballet is dead arrives simply as one more overstatement.

- A. pessimism
- B. misinterpretation
- C. imprecision
- D. vagueness
- E. exaggeration
- F. hyperbole

10. The political upheaval caught most people by surprise: despite the _____ warnings of some commentators, it had never seemed that imminent.

- A. stern
- B. prescient
- C. prophetic
- D. indifferent
- E. repeated
- F. apathetic

section 2 easy

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

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

2. We often regard natural phenomena like rainfall as mysterious and unpredictable; although for short time spans and particular places they appear so, in fact on a truly global scale, nature has been a model of _____.

- A. reliability
- B. diversity
- C. complexity
- D. plasticity
- E. discontinuity

3. The economic recovery was somewhat lopsided: (i)_____ in some of the industrial economies while (ii)_____ in others of them.

A. unexpected	D. robust
B. feeble	E. turbulent
C. swift	F. predictable

4. Although trains may use energy more (i)_____ than do automobiles, the latter move only when they contain at least one occupant, whereas railway carriages spend a considerable amount of time running up and down the tracks (ii)_____, or nearly so.

A. lavishly	D. vacant
B. efficiently	E. unimpeded
C. routinely	F. overlooked

5. Most capuchin monkey conflict involves such a (i)_____ repertoire of gestural and vocal signals that it is difficult for researchers to tease apart the meanings of the individual signals. This (ii)_____ is (iii)_____ by the fact that many signals seem to shift in meaning according to the context in which they are produced and the developmental stage of the individuals producing them.

A. precise	D. problem	G. augmented
B. rich	E. opportunity	H. ameliorated
C. straightforward	F. oversight	I. anticipated

6. Within the culture as a whole, the natural sciences have been so successful that the word “scientific” is often used in (i)_____ manner: it is often assumed that to call something “scientific” is to imply that its reliability has been (ii)_____ by methods whose results cannot reasonably be (iii)_____.

A. an ironic	D. maligned	G. exaggerated
B. a literal	E. challenged	H. anticipated
C. an honorific	F. established	I. disputed

7. Members of the union’s negotiating team insisted on several changes to the company’s proposal before they would support it, making it clear that they would _____ no compromise.

- A. disclose
- B. reject
- C. brook
- D. tolerate
- E. repudiate
- F. weigh

8. Wilson is wont to emphasize the _____ of ants: how ants with full stomachs will regurgitate liquid food for those without, or how the old will fight so the young can survive.

- A. beneficence
- B. altruism
- C. unpredictability
- D. intelligence
- E. fecundity
- F. fertility

9. During the Renaissance, the use of optical lenses, which were capable of projecting images onto blank canvases, greatly aided artists by allowing them to accurately observe and depict the external world; in other words, these lenses were instrumental in conveying _____.

- A. idealism
- B. optimism
- C. ambition
- D. realism
- E. sanguinity
- F. verisimilitude

10. The professor’s habitual air of _____ was misleading front, concealing amazing reserves of patience and a deep commitment to his students’ learning.

- A. cordiality
- B. irascibility
- C. disorganization
- D. conviviality
- E. diffidence
- F. exasperation

section 3 easy

1. Though we live in an era of stunning scientific achievement, many otherwise educated people remain indifferent to or contemptuous of such achievement, even going so far as to _____ their ignorance of basic physics.

- A. decry
- B. condone
- C. remedy
- D. boast of
- E. downplay

2. Slight but _____ variation in the timing of the star's pulses led astronomers to deduce that it was being pulled backwards and forwards by three planets orbiting around it.

- A. subtle
- B. regular
- C. undetectable
- D. inconsequential
- E. explicable

3. The great (i)_____ of most books that examine the American presidency is their ideological bias, but for most part, this volume on the presidency maintains an impressive degree of (ii)_____.

A. contribution	D. certainty
B. limitation	E. fluency
C. paradox	F. objectivity

4. Many of the towns that have voted to keep incinerators in the county's solid waste plan have done so not because they necessarily (i)_____ incinerators, but because they are (ii)_____ to narrow their waste-disposal options.

A. question	D. willing
B. favor	E. eager
C. oppose	F. loath

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

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

6. Both very good and very bad books are easy to review. Praise and (i)_____ come easily. But what of books that contain a muddle of virtues and vices? Here the reviewer's task is more (ii)_____: the author's useful and thought-provoking observations need to be (iii)_____ the useless and tedious.

A. ambivalence	D. evident	G. supplanted by
B. compliment	E. demanding	H. sifted from
C. censure	F. manageable	I. overshadowed by

7. In matters of taste, the art patron and collector Peggy Guggenheim was _____, she was for the strangest, the most surprising, the most satisfying, the best, the unique.

- A. a neophyte
- B. a novice
- C. a realist
- D. an extremist
- E. a pragmatist
- F. a zealot

8. The laboratory maze has grown ever less _____ since it was first invented instead of hoping to lose a rodent in a labyrinth; today's scientists design mazes to elicit a few simple, easily measured behaviors.

- A. intricate
- B. extensive
- C. effective
- D. convoluted
- E. useful
- F. prevalent

9. In mathematics, judgments about the validity of proofs are mediated by peer-reviewed journals; to ensure _____, reviewers are carefully chosen by journal editors, and the identity of scholars whose papers are under consideration are kept secret.

- A. timelessness
- B. originality
- C. fairness
- D. comprehensiveness
- E. objectivity
- F. novelty

10. Since some contemporary Western dieticians believe that the only function of food is to provide nourishment, these dieticians view an emphasis on the aesthetic dimension of the culinary arts as _____.

- A. unprecedented
- B. unwarranted
- C. illuminating
- D. groundless
- E. promising
- F. novel

section 4 easy

1. In the last two hundreds years, the practice of archaeology has changed greatly, from digging up ancient artifacts for use by wealthy individuals as art objects to analyzing the detritus of everyday life in the laboratory, and thus from _____ to data collection.

- A. supposition
- B. theorizing
- C. fact-finding
- D. treasure hunting
- E. scientific discovery

2. History teaches us that science is not _____ enterprise; indeed, it is quite the opposite, a motley assortment of tools designed to safeguard researchers against their own biases.

- A. an opportunistic
- B. an anomalous
- C. a haphazard
- D. a collective
- E. a monolithic

3. What they see in Tanaka is the one candidate capable of (i)_____ leadership, in direct contrast to Williamson , whose term in office has been marred by (ii)_____.

A. compassionate	D. grandstanding
B. decisive	E. partisanship
C. nepotistic	F. vacillation

4. Despite having only recently learned to walk, toddlers make the most (i)_____ dance students. Their joy in movement is so pure, so complete, and so (ii)_____.

A. skilled	D. futile
B. inattentive	E. irrelevant
C. delightful	F. contagious

5. Readers may initially be irked by the book's apparent (i)_____ but, once immersed in the author's prose, they may come to regard the work's (ii)_____ as an asset.

A. flippancy	D. subtlety
B. aimlessness	E. discursions
C. tendentiousness	F. exhaustiveness

6. Unambiguous texts can allow their readers to (i)_____ them quickly, but ambiguous texts can have the attractive (ii)_____ of multiple possible interpretations, all of which can be considered equally (iii)_____, and none of which is the single true meaning.

A. misunderstand	D. stigma	G. valid
B. comprehend	E. blemish	H. frank
C. complicate	F. allure	I. inveterate

7. Harper Lee's narration in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is _____, mixing an adult's and a child's perspective according to no logic other than the immediate exigencies of the plot.

- A. a paradigm
- B. a hodgepodge
- C. a model
- D. an innovation
- E. a patchwork
- F. an embarrassment

8. The employee had a reputation for fractiousness, but his coworkers found him to be, on the contrary, quiet _____.

- A. insightful
- B. affable
- C. sagacious
- D. capable
- E. easygoing
- F. productive

9. Even though women in the US would not gain the rights to vote until 1920, throughout the nineteenth century many feminist goals were gradually _____, especially the rights of married women to control their own property.

- A. realized
- B. abandoned
- C. eroded
- D. modified
- E. revised
- F. achieved

10. Edited collections of scholarly essays generally tend to be somewhat uneven: they suffer from the _____ subject matter of the various essays, the lack of an overarching and consistent thesis, and the variable quantity of the contributions.

- A. intriguing
- B. heterogeneous
- C. comprehensive
- D. disparate
- E. mediocre
- F. engaging

section 5 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 6 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 7 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 8 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 9 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 10 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 11 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 12 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 13 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. The Great Lakes wolf is a _____, stumping scientists as to whether it is a subspecies of the gray wolf or a distinct species.

- A. prototype
- B. riddle
- C. paragon
- D. model
- E. legend
- F. conundrum

8. The book aims to illuminate how science has changed the meaning of nothingness from _____ philosophical concept to something we can almost put under a microscope.

- A. a tangible
- B. a palpable
- C. a nebulous
- D. a nettlesome
- E. an incontrovertible
- F. a vague

9. Readers have long considered *Lawd Today!*, Richard Wright's first written and last published novel, _____; the novel simply seems inconsistent with the image of what a Wright text should do or be.

- A. an artifact
- B. a prototype
- C. an anomaly
- D. a mainstay
- E. an aberration
- F. a model

10. It is hardly _____ for today's film to try to blur the boundaries between the moral and the immoral. Hollywood has been doing that since at least the 1960s.

- A. entertaining
- B. original
- C. novel
- D. pertinent
- E. relevant
- F. insightful

section 14 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

section 15 easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. The jazz style called bebop was born and nurtured in New York City, and despite a _____ initial reception, it resonated three thousand miles away on the West Coast.

- A. wary
- B. warm
- C. confused
- D. muddled
- E. convivial
- F. hostile

8. Despite the _____ of medical information available through e-mail, the Internet, and mobile devices, not many patients are taking advantage of the potential of electronic communications for health-related needs.

- A. wealth
- B. complexity
- C. intricacy
- D. profusion
- E. resurgence
- F. overload

9. The political upheaval caught most people by surprise: despite the _____ warnings of some commentators, it had never seemed that imminent.

- A. stern
- B. prescient
- C. prophetic
- D. indifferent
- E. repeated
- F. apathetic

10. Wilson is wont to emphasize the _____ of ants, how ants with full stomachs will regurgitate liquid food for those without, or how the old will fight so the young can survive.

- A. beneficence
- B. altruism
- C. unpredictability
- D. intelligence
- E. fecundity
- F. fertility

section 16 median

1. Blake's reputation for weakness is ____: almost all who have worked with him say he is a disciplined, intellectually formidable, and very tough politician.

- A. specious
- B. pervasive
- C. irreversible
- D. trivial
- E. ambivalent

2. In protoscientific (for example, in ancient Greece), claims about the physical world were often accepted as true if they were reasonable; experimental verification, if thought necessary at all, was _____.

- A. utilitarian
- B. perfunctory
- C. egregious
- D. empirical
- E. inductive

3. Though many professional book reviewers would agree that criticism should be (i) _____ enterprise, a tendency to write (ii) _____ reviews has risen, partly out of the mistaken belief that sharing personal details will help reviewers stand out of the pack

A. an anonymous	D. scathing
B. an evenhanded	E. confessional
C. a spirited	F. superficial

4. Many of the unusual behaviors attributed to crows—such as drinking coffee or presenting gifts to people who feed them—are based on (i) _____ and therefore fall into the category of (ii) _____ rather than science.

A. long-term observation	D. anecdote
B. controlled experiments	E. speculation
C. secondhand testimony	F. hypothesis

5. Despite the scathing precision with which she satirizes the lives of social aspirants and moneyed folk, the writer appears to (i) _____ being part of the world she presents as so (ii) _____.

A. abhor	D. unattainable
B. relish	E. insufferable
C. evoke	F. enchanting

6. Although Thaler employs an innovative mode of analysis, his study offers yet another examination of quite (i)_____ ground—namely, the culture ideology of Norwegian-American preservationist writers in the early twentieth century. The history, literature, and changing internal dynamics of the Norwegian subculture in America constitute a particularly well-studied area. Anyone familiar with the authoritative work of scholars in the field will (ii)_____ little in Thaler's study that is (iii)_____.

A. unfamiliar	D. find	G. accurate
B. well-worked	E. understand	H. new
C. fruitful	F. reveal	I. recognizable

7. Though it may seem as if more than a century of _____ has made the electrical grid an all-encompassing web connecting the whole of the continent, many vast and beautiful areas remain without power.

- A. refinement
- B. expansion
- C. ubiquity
- D. augmentation
- E. omnipresence
- F. isolation

8. Much of the literature of railroad seeks someone to _____, and it is thus replete with encomiums on entrepreneurs and managers.

- A. indict
- B. rehabilitate
- C. exalt
- D. valorize
- E. emulate
- F. excoriate

9. Not only was this writer content to leave the reading public in the dark, she seems to have _____ the role of trickster, seeding her works with apparent clues that led nowhere.

- A. rejected
- B. disdained
- C. relished
- D. participated in
- E. delighted in
- F. developed

10. The major _____ of much popular history is that it betrays no interest in making intellectual contributions to our understanding of an issue.

- A. characteristic
- B. shortcoming
- C. dilemma
- D. quandary
- E. ploy
- F. fault

section 17 median

1. While early biographies of Florence Nightingale tended to be quite _____, Lytton Strachey's irreverent 1918 essay about her ushered in a new era, making it acceptable, even fashionable, to criticize her.

- A. unsympathetic
- B. sycophantic
- C. unsentimental
- D. censorious
- E. pedantic

2. The modest but functional new wing finally gives the museum the _____ to serve its visitors properly, including multiple entrances to eliminate the lines that used to snake around the building.

- A. visibility
- B. wherewithal
- C. reputation
- D. solemnity
- E. panache

3. The benefits offered by information technology do not (i)_____ the need for individual reasoning; for example, Internet user should not allow the reasoning process to be (ii)_____ the mere accumulation raw data.

A. disguise	D. preceded by
B. signal	E. supplemented with
C. diminish	F. supplanted by

4. Because the book is largely concerned with an examination of various (i)_____ often encountered in contemporary thinking, such as an exaggerated appreciation for meaningless coincidence and a credulous accept of pseudoscience, much of the writing has a (ii)_____ quality to it. Nevertheless, it avoids the overly earned scolding tone common to many such endeavors.

A. inadequacies	D. debunking
B. abstractions	E. speculative
C. complexities	F. generalizing

5. The building affairs minister rightly recognizes that the current planning system—under which the government controls every aspect of construction—creates disastrous developments, but she is wrong to propose the opposite: the wholesale (i)_____ of the building market. Such a complete (ii)_____ of responsibility on the part of the state can hardly be in the public's interest.

A. liberalization	D. abnegation
B. preservation	E. recapitulation
C. regulation	F. accretion

6. Publisher, publicist, and broadcasters love anniversaries, those occasions when historical events become (i)_____ in (ii)_____ culture of celebration. On such occasions patriotic sentiment and national pride are wrapped in the panoply of history to manufacture a mythical past that is serviceable for public (iii)_____.

A. elusive moments	D. an authentic	G. consumption
B. marketable artifacts	E. a commercial	H. scrutiny
C. raging controversies	F. an elitist	I. censure

7. After rising continuously over the summer, commodity prices fell, leaving analyst wondering whether the downward trend is a turning point or merely a _____ before demand picks up in the winter months.

- A. spike
- B. upsurge
- C. harbinger
- D. portent
- E. lull
- F. respite

8. Doris Kearns Goodwin's elegant, incisive study of Lincoln _____ those whose knowledge of Lincoln is an amalgam of high school history and popular mythology as well as those who are experts.

- A. gratify
- B. entice
- C. inspire
- D. confuse
- E. perplex
- F. please

9. Explorers could not build each other's knowledge if they could not trust records of previous explorers; thus exploration depended on the _____ of those who had gone before.

- A. collegiality
- B. endurance
- C. exactitude
- D. meticulousness
- E. eminence
- F. tenacity

10. Well organized and researched and including all significant discoveries and medical scientists, this history of Western medicine has justly been called _____.

- A. encyclopedic
- B. long-winded
- C. exhaustive
- D. rambling
- E. overbearing
- F. indiscriminating

section 18 median

1. Politicians who invoke the founders of the United States in support of their views seem to imply that the founders consistently concurred in their own views when in reality they were a highly _____ group of thinkers.

- A. erudite
- B. innovative
- C. predictable
- D. contentious
- E. methodical

2. Apparently, advanced tortoises evolved multiple times: the high-domed shells and columnar, elephantine feet of current forms are specializations for terrestrial life that evolved _____ on each continent.

- A. independently
- B. interchangeably
- C. paradoxically
- D. simultaneously
- E. symmetrically

3. Scholarly works on detective stories often begin with (i)_____, suggesting that there is something vaguely wrong with adults who spend their time reading such fiction and certainly something (ii)_____ those who devote energy to its analysis.

A. chronologies	D. awry in
B. apologies	E. astute about
C. synopses	F. courageous about

4. Due to the extraordinary circumstances, British business owners found themselves in a (i)_____ position during the Second World War, forced to accept regular interference from government and to acquiesce to (ii)_____ role for labor unions in negotiating the terms and conditions of employment.

A. defensive	D. a traditional
B. dominant	E. an enhanced
C. customary	F. a diminished

5. As Ellen Donkin explains, in eighteenth-century England, writing plays (i)_____ women. Even when the (ii)_____ meant that playwriting did not bring personal fame, the work nevertheless enabled them to present their own views to the public and offered the possibility of acquiring capital.

A. empowered	D. use of a pseudonym
B. overextended	E. lack of a producer
C. impressed	F. poor remuneration

6. Laws protecting intellectual property are intended to stimulate creativity, yet some forms of creative work have never enjoyed legal protection—a situation that ought to be of great interest. If we see certain forms of creative endeavor (i) _____ as a result of uncontrolled copying, we might decide to (ii) _____ intellectual property law. Conversely, if unprotected creative work (iii) _____ in the absence of legal rules against copying, we would do well to know how such flourishing is sustained.

A. languishing	D. jettison	G. declines in originality
B. proliferating	E. extend	H. manages to thrive
C. diversifying	F. relax	I. openly invites imitation

7. Science is arguably a very high-minded pursuit, but that is not to say that all of its practitioners are _____, as numerous articles alleging overly generous pharmaceutical industry payments to medical researchers have tried to show.

- A. conventional
- B. clever
- C. unimpeachable
- D. ingenious
- E. blameless
- F. predictable

8. In a field of egotists, Bloomfield is _____, often praising her competitors and punctuating her correspondence with self-deprecating remarks.

- A. unassuming
- B. complimentary
- C. acerbic
- D. ingenuous
- E. cutting
- F. modest

9. Because its previously _____ beliefs had become core tenets of mainstream politics, the activist group disbanded; with no more skeptics to persuade, its purpose had evaporated.

- A. arcane
- B. seditious
- C. quixotic
- D. idealistic
- E. popular
- F. conventional

10. Although scientific progress leads to constant revision of ideas, one observation that has remained _____ over the years is that there are a lot of insects in the world: some 950,000 species have been identified.

- A. robust
- B. significant
- C. strong
- D. perplexing
- E. confounding
- F. obscure

section 19 median

1. What once seemed a quixotic vision—the “Subway to the Sea,” connecting Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica—no longer seems quite so _____.

- A. impracticable
- B. prescient
- C. banal
- D. viable
- E. beneficial

2. There is _____ in the director’s most recent film that keeps the melodramatic possibilities latent in its script safely at bay.

- A. a mawkishness
- B. a predictability
- C. an austerity
- D. an ostentatiousness
- E. an emotiveness

3. Computers have become adept in rarefied domains once thought to be uniquely human. However, they simultaneously have (i)_____ certain tasks basic to the human experience, including spatial orientation and object recognition, and in so doing, have shown us how (ii)_____ such fundamental skills truly are.

A. failed to master	D. outmoded
B. helped to improve	E. common
C. managed to mimic	F. impressive

4. Until the advent of film, commercial entertainment in England occurred only where concentrated urban populations provided audiences large enough to make it remunerative: theaters and music halls were (i)_____ in rural villages. But village cinemas quickly become (ii)_____, even though they were ramshackle affairs in comparison to the urban picture palaces.

A. spartan	D. commonplace
B. unconceivable	E. sophisticated
C. profitable	F. unfashionable

5. Among wide-ranging animal species, populations at the edge of the species’ range are frequently exposed to less (i)_____ and more variable conditions than those in other parts on the range. As a result, the animal’s abundance is often (ii)_____.

A. erratic	D. lower at the periphery
B. favorable	E. unaffected by habitat
C. demanding	F. underestimated by researchers

6. Common sense tells me some people are more (i)_____ than others. The claim that these differences are (ii)_____, or that deep down, everybody acts only to further their own interests, (iii)_____ our everyday observations and deep-seated human practices of moral evaluation.

A. altruistic	D. growing	G. mimics
B. adaptable	E. illusory	H. explains
C. disciplined	F. relevant	I. contradicts

7. Anne Carson's book *Nox* is, very deliberately, _____ literary object—the opposite of an e-reader, which is designed to vanish in your palm as you read on a train.

- A. an evanescent
- B. a cumbersome
- C. an immutable
- D. an unwieldy
- E. an ephemeral
- F. an flexible

8. One of the peculiarities of humans is that we irrationally gravitate to the predictable and avoid risk, whatever the reasons for this _____, it is hardly a sound basis for dealing with complex, long-term problems.

- A. eccentricity
- B. predilection
- C. vacillation
- D. proclivity
- E. wavering
- F. cowardice

9. Williamson had a fierce commitment to achieving an accord, spending enormous amount of time trying to forge a consensus out of an often _____ assembly.

- A. apathetic
- B. fractious
- C. restive
- D. cynical
- E. compliant
- F. tractable

10. One _____ is that so far, Web services have turned out to be much harder to deliver than their champions had hoped.

- A. hope
- B. snag
- C. prospect
- D. hitch
- E. upshot
- F. reason

section 20 median

1. Unlike some mammals—cows and sheep, for instance—that are notably _____, lions have a wide range of facial expressions.

- A. tractable
- B. impassive
- C. solitary
- D. social
- E. sluggish

2. Though humanitarian emergencies are frequent features of television news, such exposure seldom _____ the public, which rather seems resigned to a sense of impotency.

- A. paralyzes
- B. demoralizes
- C. assuages
- D. galvanizes
- E. exasperates

3. Historian Barbara Alpern Engel's task in writing a book about women in Russia must have been a (i)_____ one, because the (ii)_____ the Russian empire's peoples meant that Russian women could never be treated as a homogeneous group.

A. motivating	D. unity among
B. boring	E. disinterest in
C. daunting	F. diversity of

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

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

5. The material covered in this article has been (i)_____ in previous publications, and since currently neglected areas remained unexplored, the article contains no (ii)_____.

A. skirted	D. revelations
B. scrutinized	E. distortions
C. countered	F. conclusions

6. China's rapidly growing population is the main threat facing large carnivores in the People's Republic. Increasingly, policies aimed at limiting population growth have been (i)_____; nevertheless, the country's vast size and the isolation of many of its regions mean that human populations in areas where large carnivores still occur (ii)_____. This human pressure has (iii)_____ the South China tiger.

A. modified	D. could start to decline	G. celebrated
B. deemphasized	E. can grow unchecked	H. doomed
C. implemented	F. have stabilized	I. bypassed

7. Asserting a need to preserve the _____ that became the hallmark of her predecessor's tenure, the new director of federal monetary policy refused to subscribe to rigid or mechanistic rules in policy making.

- A. firmness
- B. adaptability
- C. unpredictability
- D. autonomy
- E. strictness
- F. flexibility

8. At first, most of the famous fairy tales seem so implausible and so irrelevant to contemporary life that their _____ is hard to understand.

- A. universality
- B. persistence
- C. appeal
- D. ephemerality
- E. survival
- F. transience

9. Far from _____ innovations, as the patent system was designed to do, the patenting of concepts such as gene sequences gives individuals and corporations a legal choke to hold over ideas that should be useful to all.

- A. spurring
- B. recognizing
- C. codifying
- D. acknowledging
- E. fostering
- F. cataloging

10. Advocates for workers' rights have adopted a new strategy, one that will require considerable ingenuity but that, if successful, could _____ a movement aimed at making labor rights an unassailable feature of American democracy.

- A. frustrate
- B. galvanize
- C. presume
- D. affect
- E. animate
- F. thwart

section 21 median

1. In protoscientific (for example, in ancient Greece), claims about the physical world were often accepted as true if they were reasonable; experimental verification, if thought necessary at all, was _____.

- A. utilitarian
- B. perfunctory
- C. egregious
- D. empirical
- E. inductive

2. The theory that the 1908 Tunguska event was the explosion of a cosmic body in the sky over Siberia is _____: no one has yet found fragments of the object or any impact craters in the affected region.

- A. long-standing
- B. indisputable
- C. plausible
- D. uncontested
- E. unproven

3. Although the political science professor's paper is quite (i)_____ about the government's problem, suggesting that they are part of (ii)_____ a process, the prognosis for the government is, on the contrary, actually quite auspicious.

A. straightforward	D. degenerative
B. circuitous	E. comprehensive
C. pessimistic	F. spontaneous

4. Although the vast weight of evidence supports the contention that the products of agricultural biotechnology are environmentally (i)_____, many people still find them (ii)_____ unsettling.

A. destructive	D. retroactively
B. sound	E. innocuously
C. intriguing	F. intrinsically

5. The usual (i)_____ spending public monies on scientific projects is that such projects have the potential to make our lives healthier, safer, and more productive. However, the fact that science – even “pure” science – can strengthen democracy and promote public participation in the political process is hardly ever (ii)_____. It should be Scientific literacy (iii)_____ democracy, and this is an important ancillary benefit of the promotion of science.

A. argument against	D. denied	G. stifles
B. rationale for	E. mentioned	H. energizes
C. precedent for	F. gainsaid	I. disregards

6. Early practitioners of the natural sciences developed methods to remove distortions caused by either the research environment or the researcher. Such methods, especially with respect to the researcher, were considered to (i)_____ those (ii)_____ subjectivity whose unbridled expression was thought to (iii)_____ research.

A. restrain	D. incursions of	G. corrupt
B. reveal	E. restrictions on	H. justify
C. disguise	F. acknowledgements of	I. expedite

7. The researcher noted that microbes, although _____, make up far more of the living protoplasm on Earth than all humans, animals and plants combined.

- A. invisible
- B. omnipresent
- C. diminutive
- D. ubiquitous
- E. minuscule
- F. ethereal

8. In Inuit culture, elaborate carving has often been used to enhance _____ object such as harpoon heads and other tools.

- A. utilitarian
- B. functional
- C. domestic
- D. decorative
- E. manufactured
- F. ornamental

9. Benjamin Franklin's reputation is so much one of appearing scientific investigation with commonsense empiricism that it is somewhat startling to realize how _____ the great experiment's mentoring truly was.

- A. reasonable
- B. speculative
- C. pragmatic
- D. conjectural
- E. careless
- F. judicious

10. Scientist reported last month on a sign of relative solar _____; the solar wind, a rush of charged particles continually spewed from the Sun at a million miles an hour, had diminished to its lowest level in 50 years.

- A. quiescence
- B. turbulence
- C. isolation
- D. calm
- E. remoteness
- F. instability

section 22 median

1. Motivation is the hardest of all managerial tasks, and it is _____ to expect a single memo, no matter how well crafted, to have much effect on the staff's attitude.

- A. ingenious
- B. reasonable
- C. fanciful
- D. scrupulous
- E. radical

2. Many readers today consider the moral sentiments expressed in the ancient writers' work to be quite vapid, and in the seventeenth century they were similarly regarded as _____.

- A. jejune
- B. didactic
- C. dogmatic
- D. tendentious
- E. arcane

3. The author argued that the field of sociology has been overly (i)_____, partly because, for many scholars, the edges of social universe are defined by national borders. In this era of increasing globalization, however, sociology is presented with a historically distinct opportunity to transcend its former (ii)_____.

A. narrow in scope	D. utilitarianism
B. susceptible to fads	E. parochialism
C. averse to empiricism	F. historicism

4. The author of this travel guide (i)_____ to show his readers Cairo as it really is, but his information is not reliable: for example, his geography is (ii)_____, with one walking tour covering areas of the city that are twenty miles apart.

A. designs	D. erratic
B. forbears	E. erudite
C. purports	F. extensive

5. Behavioral economists have come to believe that a (i)_____ of choices can be paralyzing as Schwartz pointed out in the recent book *The Paradox of Choice*. Studies of retirement plans show that the more investment choices a plan offers, the less likely people are to participate in it. It may follow, then, that a lack of flexibility in certain plans may actually be a (ii)_____. People reasonably (iii)_____ some advantages in exchange for peace of mind.

A. surfeit	D. virtue	G. foresee
B. reduction	E. conundrum	H. forestall
C. stabilization	F. revelation	I. forgo

6. Although political events in different countries were not (i) _____ in the nineteenth century, their interrelationship was (ii) _____ compared with the present, when interdependence has become far greater: (iii) _____ has ceased to be an option.

A. unconnected	D. conditional	G. isolationism
B. trivial	E. superficial	H. resilience
C. simultaneous	F. transparent	I. idealism

7. Publicity surrounding celebrities' donations to charity is often greeted with cynicism, but a study of celebrity donation shows that they do _____ other donations.

- A. preclude
- B. elicit
- C. allow
- D. draw
- E. bar
- F. replace

8. Aerial viewings of the gigantic stone horse attributed to the Native American Quechuan people fail to _____ the considerable artistry required to create the piece: the horse appears crudely constructed unless carefully examined from the ground.

- A. reveal
- B. justify
- C. manifest
- D. mitigate
- E. diminish
- F. undercut

9. Culture, like speech, is primarily a human faculty, although both functions may exist in a more _____ form in lesser primates.

- A. indispensable
- B. crucial
- C. primitive
- D. intelligible
- E. recognizable
- F. rudimentary

10. Jackie Wullschlager's biography of Hans Christian Andersen _____ the insipid sweetness with which Andersen coated his life and reveals a vulnerable gingerbread man with a bitter almond where his heart should be.

- A. conjures up
- B. imagines
- C. strips away
- D. overlooks
- E. removes
- F. ignores

section 23 median

1. Though the volume of radioactive waste produced by nuclear power plants is _____, the problem of how to dispose of that waste is not: rather, it is of major importance.

- A. unmanageable
- B. troubling
- C. significant
- D. small
- E. deceptive

2. For the urban researcher, the long lives of ancient cities can provide ample chronological data, making up for the paucity stemming from relative _____ of most present-day cities.

- A. complexity
- B. formlessness
- C. transparency
- D. diversity
- E. youthfulness

3. The school system's modest plan for curriculum improvements has (i)_____ local educators: some call it (ii)_____ effort, while others say it is a pragmatic approach given the complexity of the task.

A. surprised	D. genuine
B. impressed	E. halfhearted
C. divided	F. practical

4. The author of this political history text shows considerable bias against the political party when assigning credit or blame for its actions: he deems (i)_____ what he favors and avoids what he (ii)_____.

A. pertinent	D. condemns
B. inevitable	E. condones
C. divided	F. ignores

5. The (i)_____ quality of much contemporary drawing may be attributable to the use of photography as a drawing shortcut. Photography (ii)_____ modern arts, but when it is used as a tracing tool in order to (iii)_____ the difficulties of achieving correct proportion, the resulting art often feels static and lifeless.

A. inert	D. frequently enervated	G. augment
B. jubilant	E. wonderfully enriched	H. foreground
C. sensuous	F. inevitably circumscribed	I. circumvent

6. To read Joanna Scott is to admire the work of a (i)_____. From sentence to story, she narrates with great skill and (ii)_____, so that the reader soon relaxes in the assurance that a hint or a brushstroke delivered in chapter 1 will be (iii)_____ before the novel comes to an end.

A. proselytizer	D. deliberation	G. given import
B. sage	E. enthusiasm	H. largely forgotten
C. master	F. flamboyance	I. overwhelmed with details

7. While it is always clear that the author's message is heartfelt, it is mostly buried by shortcomings of style, organization, and production, although the book does become more _____ toward the end.

- A. sincere
- B. intelligible
- C. orthodox
- D. readable
- E. frank
- F. voluble

8. A clever form of diplomacy involves subtly inducing the other party to propose your preference so that your _____ their requests appears as the granting of concession.

- A. accession to
- B. inattention to
- C. subversion of
- D. abnegation of
- E. repudiation of
- F. acquiescence to

9. Films that critics have slumbered through rarely generate industry excitement, even though the critics' _____ reception may be less the fault of the movie than of its unfortunate time slot near a fatiguing film festival's conclusion.

- A. somnolent
- B. impartial
- C. lethargic
- D. laconic
- E. befuddled
- F. evenhanded

10. Even the cleverest use of time management techniques is powerless to _____ the sum of minutes in a person's life (over 52 million, optimistically assuming a life expectancy of 100 years), so people squeeze as much as they could into each one of them.

- A. justify
- B. quantify
- C. augment
- D. enrich
- E. measure
- F. extend

section 24 median

1. Few studies have been published on ground-squirrel dispersal, and most of them have involved very small sample sizes, thus most statement regarding ground-squirrel dispersal must be considered _____.

- A. invaluable
- B. unexceptional
- C. inveterate
- D. routine
- E. conjectural

2. To criticize a disaster film for being _____ is a bit silly, since people do not go to disaster movies to see an honest portrayed of reality.

- A. expensive
- B. harrowing
- C. derivative
- D. convoluted
- E. implausible

3. It would be naïve to treat remarks made in diaries or personal letters as giving especially candid access to historical truth or even as being expressions of the writer's true state of mind, since the (i)_____ for exaggeration and deception in those forms is virtually nonexistent. Diaries and letters are rarely sites for (ii)_____.

A. motivation	D. premeditated manipulation
B. penalty	E. childish theatrics
C. tendency	F. balanced reflection

4. The author paints a rather dark picture of book publishing as a hidebound industry, one that is facing a profound change in its mode of production but is so (i)_____ its past as to be (ii)_____ opportunity offered by technological changes.

A. alienated from	D. eager to exploit
B. emboldened by	E. unable to seize
C. encumbered by	F. forced to reconsider

5. The experimental theater company's members know that their performances (i)_____ an audience, that they were dense and unpredictable and not always easy to digest. But none of the techniques used would be (ii)_____ anyone with an interest in music or films. Indeed, they would seem strange only to people who expected to see traditionally crafted plays. The actors therefore felt that theater critics' derisive commentary showed only that the critics (iii)_____ the company's work.

A. made demands on	D. contemplated by	G. lambasted
B. had to command	E. alien to	H. exploited
C. were sure to please	F. intuitive for	I. misunderstood

6. Unlike most other serious journals, which drain money from their owners, the Review has long been (i)_____. But the formula is not without its imperfections, which have grown more pronounced in recent years. The publication has always been erudite and (ii)_____ but not always lively and readable. (iii)_____, accompanied by a certain aversion to risk taking, has pervaded its pages for a long time.

A. lucrative	D. authoritative	G. an originality
B. realistic	E. animated	H. an impulsiveness
C. unesteemed	F. trendy	I. a staleness

7. In the absence of a surface gradient, the new laws of refraction and reflection are _____ the conventional law, so they represent more of an extension than a complete revolution.

- A. inferable from
- B. entailed by
- C. antithetical to
- D. coincident with
- E. antecedent to
- F. oppositional to

8. Flawed as it may be because it is conducted by subjective scientists, science itself has methods that help us _____ our biases and talk about objective reality with some validity.

- A. bypass
- B. reduce
- C. exacerbate
- D. magnify
- E. acknowledge
- F. circumvent

9. In Japanese aesthetics, especially but not only in Noh, beauty contains the idea of _____: beauty must have an air of evanescence, the intimation of its own demise.

- A. transience
- B. symmetry
- C. decay
- D. simplicity
- E. balance
- F. deterioration

10. The uniquely human ability to rethink and revise our social arrangements is a weird blessing, allowing us to create systems that are as likely to _____ us as to liberate us.

- A. cheer
- B. shackle
- C. admonish
- D. educate
- E. stifle
- F. enliven

section 25 median

1. In contrast to such sparsely populated terrestrial habitats as desert and tundra, the oceans _____ with a seemingly endless array of creatures.

- A. teem
- B. flow
- C. evolve
- D. roil
- E. ebb

2. Barring the discovery of new letters, hidden diaries, or the like, fresh information about eminent people is hard to find because their lives have been so intensely _____.

- A. ridiculed
- B. scrutinized
- C. admired
- D. embellished
- E. underrated

3. Recent scholarship has questioned the (i)_____ of tropical forests around the world. Archaeologists have shown, for example, that the largest contiguous tract of what was thought to be virgin rain forest in the southern Amazon had been transformed into a cultural parkland before European contact, and many of the forest islands in West Africa's savanna forest transition zone are (ii)_____ as well.

A. diversity	D. isolated
B. naturalness	E. endangered
C. sustainability	F. anthropogenic

4. A (i)_____ to disseminate the vast scientific knowledge of our time to nonscientists shows real (ii)_____ the magnificent achievement humanity is capable of, like allowing a great work of art to molder in a warehouse.

A. triumph	D. indifference to
B. failure	E. enthusiasm for
C. diffusion	F. glory of

5. Cultures can shape attitudes and beliefs in ways that (i)_____ conscious awareness or control; in other words, cultural orientations may develop from processes that do not entail (ii)_____ participation, and cultures may pervade subtle psychological dynamics in ways that individuals may not be able to (iii)_____. Thus, theories and tools developed to study implicit cognition may increase our understanding of the complex interplay between culture and individuals.

A. operate outside of	D. active	G. report
B. tend to facilitate	E. random	H. maintain
C. may not alter	F. rote	I. condone

6. Publisher, publicist, and broadcasters love anniversaries, those occasions when historical events become (i)_____ in (ii)_____ culture of celebration. On such occasions patriotic sentiment and national pride wrapped in the panoply of history to manufacture a mythical past that is serviceable for public (iii)_____.

A. elusive moments	D. an authentic	G. consumption
B. marketable artifacts	E. a commercial	H. scrutiny
C. raging controversies	F. an elitist	I. censure

7. The Chavez Pass archaeological site was initially interpreted as indicative of _____ society, since it was thought to have been at the center of a cluster of smaller, contemporary settlements that it presumably controlled.

- A. an expansionist
- B. a hierarchical
- C. an urban
- D. a heterogeneous
- E. a diverse
- F. a stratified

8. Although the insistence on balancing spending against tax revenues has contributed to the economy's stagnation, unfortunately, the government does not seem likely to _____ this rigid policy.

- A. initiate
- B. persist in
- C. publicize
- D. repudiate
- E. continue
- F. recant

9. Although its director _____ that the movie uses a documentary approach in portraying the famous sit-down strike, in practice its characters are heavily fictionalized and fall into familiar Hollywood types.

- A. asserts
- B. concedes
- C. guarantees
- D. disputes
- E. grants
- F. maintains

10. For all the _____ the new CEO has received from the press recently, her staff have a decidedly less rosy view of her.

- A. encomiums
- B. tributes
- C. evaluations
- D. critiques
- E. attention
- F. publicity

section 26 median

1. Scientists have argued not only that the chains of atoms called ladder compounds have _____ theoretical interest but also that studies of such systems can lead to important practical applications.

- A. limited
- B. dubious
- C. superfluous
- D. unidimensional
- E. intrinsic

2. Some novelists immodestly idealized and exaggerated the significance of their work, but others, _____ to exalt the role of the writer, question a transcendent view of the art.

- A. averring
- B. declining
- C. seeking
- D. feigning
- E. avowing

3. In her works, she (i) _____ confidence. She gets excessively (ii) _____ to authorities, even when rejecting their views.

A. inspires	D. pugnacious
B. exudes	E. deferential
C. lacks	F. condescending

4. The trade in scientific literature in nineteenth-century Germany was so robust that publisher constantly worried about (i) _____ of new titles, an anxiety that gave even relatively undistinguished authors, who made their living writing technical treatises, (ii) _____.

A. prices	D. limited public relevance
B. supplies	E. enviable scholarly credentials
C. embargoes	F. strong bargaining positions

5. Laws protecting intellectual property are intended to stimulate creativity, yet some forms of creative work have never enjoyed legal protection—a situation that ought to be of great interest. If we see certain forms of creative endeavor (i) _____ as a result of uncontrolled copying, we might decide to (ii) _____ intellectual property law. Conversely, if unprotected creative work (iii) _____ in the absence of legal rules against copying, we would do well to know how such flourishing is sustained.

A. languishing	D. jettison	G. declines in originality
B. proliferating	E. extend	H. manages to thrive
C. diversifying	F. relax	I. openly invites imitation

6. The slow pace of job creation was without precedent for the period of recovery from a recession, but the conditions that conspired to cause the recession were also (i) _____. The stock market declined sharply, and rampant business investment slumped. Then an ensuing spate of scandals (ii) _____ public trust in the way companies were run. And yet, despite these powerful (iii) _____ to growth, the recession proved surprisingly mild.

A. heartening	D. weakened	G. counterforces
B. atypical	E. illuminated	H. stimulants
C. ambiguous	F. consolidated	I. concomitants

7. A cure for the common cold has been so elusive that it has become a modern symbol of _____.

- A. danger
- B. futility
- C. unease
- D. pointlessness
- E. sloth
- F. apathy

8. The dictator's gleaming military uniform and imperial paraphernalia sharply contrast with the _____ fashion favored by most other contemporary political leaders.

- A. unostentatious
- B. modest
- C. august
- D. majestic
- E. formal
- F. casual

9. If giant X-ray flares churn circumstellar disks enough to keep newborn planets, such as Earth once was, from spiraling into their suns, it would be an ironic twist on our conception of X-ray flares as _____.

- A. dangerous
- B. predictable
- C. ancient
- D. ephemeral
- E. perilous
- F. foreseeable

10. Not only was this writer content to leave the reading public in the dark, she seems to have _____ the role of trickster, seeding her works with apparent clues that led nowhere.

- A. rejected
- B. disdained
- C. relished
- D. participated in
- E. delighted in
- F. developed

section 27 median

1. Though many avant-garde writers _____ traditional distinctions among literary categories, combining elements of biography and fiction, prose and poetry, this fusion of forms has been slow to catch on with publishers.

- A. flout
- B. presuppose
- C. exploit
- D. imitate
- E. illuminate

2. By pointing out the self-serving nature of the governor's motives for supporting the new health care policy, the columnist implied that the governor's idealistic-sounding explanation of her position on the issue was almost certainly _____.

- A. impractical
- B. derivative
- C. simplistic
- D. disingenuous
- E. ineffectual

3. The documentation of Earth's biodiversity is complicated by the (i)_____ taxonomists. Those experts in classifying species tend to be (ii)_____ North American and Europe, whereas most of the undocumented biodiversity is likely in the tropics.

A. uneven distribution of	D. clustered in
B. theoretical commitments of	E. oblivious to
C. professional rivalries among	F. exported from

4. Invention was (i)_____ the work of the ancient Greek historians, whose writings were filled with long and often purely fictitious speeches by great historical figures. The animating force in historical writing was rhetoric rather than (ii)_____. Even well into the eighteenth century, not a few historians continued to understand themselves as artists, given a license to invent.

A. discouraged in	D. eloquence
B. a hallmark of	E. evidence
C. exceptional in	F. imagination

5. Given children's active fantasy lives, one might think of truthfulness as (i)_____ virtue in young children, but it turns out that lying is the more (ii)_____ skill. A child who is going to lie must recognize the truth, intellectually conceive of an alternate reality, and be able to convincingly sell that new reality to someone else. Therefore, lying (iii)_____ cognitive development and social skills in a way that honesty simply does not.

A. an instinctive	D. advanced	G. undermines
B. an acquired	E. practical	H. forgoes
C. a conscious	F. mundane	I. demands

6. Traditional Vietnamese culture has long promoted the idea of gender equality. Founding myths (i)_____ the equal division of labor in child care for mothers and fathers. As is often the case, however, theoretical commitments are (ii)_____ actual processes. In reality, gender-based (iii)_____ persists.

A. obscure	D. incommensurate with	G. parity
B. celebrate	E. surpassed by	H. inclusiveness
C. countermand	F. inspired by	I. stratification

7. Although the biography never explicitly assesses what role the dynamic between Mr. Merrill's parents might have played in the development of his personality, the author offers plenty of _____.

- A. mystification
- B. elucidation
- C. speculation
- D. reflection
- E. obfuscation
- F. conjecture

8. There are great _____ in countries' greenhouse gas emissions, especially in per capita terms: while the United States and China are similar in aggregate emissions, United States per capita emissions are a huge multiple of China's.

- A. distortions
- B. disparities
- C. fluctuations
- D. advances
- E. variances
- F. vacillations

9. There is frequently a protracted time interval between the introduction of an innovative musical composition and its public acceptance; the concert-going public often spurns the _____ in favor of the familiar for a prolonged period.

- A. comprehensive
- B. intricate
- C. novel
- D. original
- E. intelligible
- F. complex

10. The concept of the Hellenistic period in ancient history has proved useful but also _____, with scholars disagreeing on the dates when the period began and ended.

- A. slippery
- B. elusive
- C. fruitless
- D. deceptive
- E. futile
- F. compelling

section 28 median

1. In the solar system, collisions involving cosmic object are among the most _____ processes shaping surfaces: images of many solar objects show a proliferation of impact craters formed throughout the past 4.5 billion years.

- A. cataclysmic
- B. pervasive
- C. misleading
- D. uncontrollable
- E. random

2. If the study proves that bears are still endemic to the area, the proposal to introduce additional bears of the same species will probably face less opposition, since the plan would then involve _____ a historic population, not trying to build population from scratch.

- A. reclassifying
- B. augmenting
- C. forestalling
- D. publicizing
- E. winnowing

3. Folmer's book on Edith Wharton seems far removed from recent trends in literary criticism; this need not to be a fault, except that, in its title and introduction, the book (i)_____ to be conversant with contemporary discourse in the field, but in its actual analysis of Wharton's work, it is marked by a very (ii)_____ approach.

A. designs	D. old-fashioned
B. fails	E. timely
C. purports	F. arcane

4. The book is not comprehensive but is, instead, (i)_____ in the most positive sense:(ii)_____ rather than settles.

A. definitive	D. stipulates
B. provocative	E. suggests
C. timely	F. disseminates

5. Although political events in different countries were not (i)_____ in the nineteen century, their interrelationship was (ii)_____ compared with the present, when interdependence has become far greater: (iii)_____ has ceased to be an option.

A. unconnected	D. conditional	G. isolationism
B. trivial	E. superficial	H. resilience
C. simultaneous	F. transparent	I. idealism

6. In adolescence, (i)_____ interactions are crucial in forging a self-identity. To be sure, this process often plays out in (ii)_____ as a means of defining and shoring up the sense of self. Kids will seek out like-minded companions, and spurn others who seem different. But when kept within reasonable bounds, this in-group (iii)_____ generally evolves into a more mature friendship pattern.

A. adult	D. cliquish social behavior	G. alienation
B. wide-ranging	E. dramatic changes in personality	H. clustering
C. peer	F. heightened sociability	I. competition

7. Few ideas are more _____ than the notion that cultures evolve in Darwin fashion; many academics have begun writing about cultural evolution, but few treat the underlying Darwinian logic with the care it deserves.

- A. abused
- B. archaic
- C. misused
- D. outdated
- E. divisive
- F. derivative

8. After many years of feeling _____ by his seniors managers, Clark was becoming hopeful of advancement.

- A. vilified
- B. stymied
- C. hindered
- D. aggrieved
- E. circumvented
- F. overlooked

9. Williamson had a fierce commitment to achieving an accord, spending enormous amount of time trying to forge a consensus out of an often _____ assembly.

- A. apathetic
- B. fractious
- C. restive
- D. cynical
- E. compliant
- F. tractable

10. Readers looking for another condemnation of private equity firms should look elsewhere, this book is not _____ such firms.

- A. a rant against
- B. a diatribe on
- C. an exculpation
- D. a disquisition on
- E. a vindication of
- F. an argument about

section 29 median

1. Many readers today consider the moral sentiments expressed in the ancient writers' work to be quite vapid, and in the seventeenth century they were similarly regarded as _____.

- A. jejune
- B. didactic
- C. dogmatic
- D. tendentious
- E. arcane

2. A new television documentary focuses on of the prime minister's defining contradiction, portraying her as a woman who cultivated an image of _____, but who liked to live grandly.

- A. irascibility
- B. abstemiousness
- C. contentiousness
- D. insouciance
- E. surreptitiousness

3. The author clearly supports the causes he writes about, but he is more a narrator than (i)_____. Some say he should have included more (ii)_____, but he is wise to let the fact speak for themselves. They are complex enough to prompt many kinds of interpretation, and he would bog down the complicated tale if he tried to adjudicate all of their competing claims.

A. a reporter	D. statistical data
B. an advocate	E. analysis of events
C. an adversary	F. detailed description

4. The controversy about Alexander the Great's personality derives from the fact that our sources are (i)_____, all eyewitness accounts having perished. What remains is, at best, (ii)_____ (one history, for instance is based largely on the now-lost memoirs of Alexander's alleged half-brother, Ptolemy) and at worst, highly unreliable.

A. outdated	D. secondhand
B. inadequate	E. repetitious
C. abstruse	F. deceptive

5. One sometimes hears that Marco Polo introduced pasta to the Western world, having encountered it in China. This durable myth, which (i)_____ that nothing should have been known of pasta in Italy until 1295, when Marco Polo returned from the Far East, can easily be (ii)_____ by pointing out that there are Italian references to pasta that (iii)_____.

A. requires	D. augmented	G. praise its virtues
B. demonstrates	E. debunked	H. can be authenticated
C. symbolizes	F. traced	I. predate that event

6. For almost two centuries, the German island of Sylt has offered various therapies for every conceivable (i)_____ from broken bones to liver complaints. The local mud, saltwater, thermal pools, and spas have been deemed (ii)_____ by the German medical system, which (iii)_____ some of these treatments. Consequently, the treatments are widely used.

A. malady	D. healthful	G. doubts
B. indiscretion	E. suspect	H. denies
C. prognosis	F. innocuous	I. funds

7. His premiership, seemingly cast-iron year ago, is now so vulnerable that even a good day at the office does no more than buy him a few weeks of _____ from rebels within his own party.

- A. controversy
- B. reproach
- C. respite
- D. relief
- E. blame
- F. deference

8. Even before she went to art school, Veronica found the standard design categories _____: she didn't understand why designing buildings and designing tables should require different sensibilities.

- A. provocative
- B. limiting
- C. stimulating
- D. confusing
- E. confining
- F. exhilarating

9. The author engages this issue from diverse perspectives, supports his arguments with many examples, and manages to avoid antagonizing others in dealing with a very _____ subject.

- A. contentious
- B. pedestrian
- C. controversial
- D. perplexing
- E. mundane
- F. intriguing

10. Space is often referred to as the final frontier, as the only realm of which humankind has still to gain substantial understanding, yet the ocean is also another vast area about which our knowledge is _____.

- A. erroneous
- B. confusing
- C. frustrating
- D. rudimentary
- E. delusive
- F. sketchy

section 30 median

1. The stories in Yiyun Li's recent collection are distinctive particularly for the strong contrast between their emotional intensity and their consistently _____ tone.

- A. affable
- B. ebullient
- C. measured
- D. irascible
- E. overwrought

2. The paleontologist examined the problem afresh, believing that the accepted classification _____ the essential continuity of the specimens by making specious distinctions among them.

- A. disproved
- B. belied
- C. conflated
- D. divulged
- E. relaxed

3. It would be naïve to treat remarks made in diaries or personal letters as giving especially candid access to historical truth or even as being expressions of the writer's true state of mind, since the (i)_____ for exaggeration and deception in those forms is virtually nonexistent. Diaries and letters are rarely sites for (ii)_____.

A. motivation	D. premeditated manipulation
B. penalty	E. childish theatrics
C. tendency	F. balanced reflection

4. Making loans and fighting poverty are normally two of the least glamorous pursuits around, but remarkably enough put the two together, and you have an economic innovation that has become not just (i)_____ but downright (ii)_____.

A. popular	D. chic
B. pointless	E. unfathomable
C. dangerous	F. sensible

5. Although Thaler employs an innovative mode of analysis, his study offers yet another examination of quite (i)_____ ground—namely, the culture ideology of Norwegian-American preservationist writers in the early twentieth century. The history, literature, and changing internal dynamics of the Norwegian subculture in America constitute a particularly well-studied area. Anyone familiar with the authoritative work of scholars in the field will (ii)_____ little in Thaler's study that is (iii)_____.

A. unfamiliar	D. find	G. accurate
B. well-worked	E. understand	H. new
C. fruitful	F. reveal	I. recognizable

6. Biologists have little (i)_____ drawing the link between the success of humanity and human (ii)_____. Indeed, many biologists claim that this attribute, the ability to (iii)_____, or, to put it more sharply, to make individuals subordinate their self-interest to the needs of the group, lies at the root of human achievement.

A. consensus regarding	D. resilience	G. reflect
B. compunction about	E. sociability	H. communicate
C. justification for	F. uniqueness	I. cooperate

7. Culture, like speech, is primarily a human faculty, although both functions may exist in a more _____ form in lesser primates.

- A. indispensable
- B. crucial
- C. primitive
- D. intelligible
- E. recognizable
- F. rudimentary

8. Tompkinson's prior donations to the university, while very generous, failed to _____ the magnitude of her latest gift.

- A. compensate for
- B. portend
- C. clarify
- D. predict
- E. offset
- F. undermine

9. The first images of Jupiter's moon Callisto show bright regions of material, as if older and darker ice had slid downhill and exposed the _____ ice underneath.

- A. ancient
- B. murky
- C. compact
- D. pristine
- E. grimy
- F. unblemished

10. Mortoris is dour and _____, seemingly incapable of smiling, let alone laughing.

- A. mirthful
- B. jovial
- C. intelligent
- D. tepid
- E. lugubrious
- F. gloomy

section 31 median

1. The era's examples of _____ that are cited by the author can be balanced in part by certain examples of dissent during the same period.

- A. diversity
- B. authoritarianism
- C. forbearance
- D. volatility
- E. lucidity

2. It seems foolish to refuse the offer of an expedient that is both so _____ success and so difficult to create them absent.

- A. reminiscent of
- B. lacking in
- C. distinct from
- D. indispensable to
- E. inimical to

3. The genius of the scientific method is that it (i) _____ the dictum of Aristotle that the goal of science is knowledge of the ultimate cause of things. True science, we now know, advances human knowledge by (ii) _____ ultimate causes and focusing instead on the testing of empirical hypotheses.

A. qualifies	D. ignoring
B. jettisons	E. predicting
C. affirms	F. confirming

4. The meandering journey across the soundscape of the Internet can be (i) _____. Listening to music in this medium often generates anxiety fulfillment: no sooner has one experience begun than the thought of what else is out there intrudes. Putting an old-fashioned disk and letting it play to the end restores a measure of (ii) _____.

A. liberating	D. choice
B. taxing	E. boredom
C. educational	F. sanity

5. Inuit print making is less (i) _____ than carving in that it does not have substantial historical precedents, although there are (ii) _____ incised carvings on bone or antler, facial tattoo marks or inlay skin work on clothing, mitts and footwear. Carving materials such as stone, bone, antler, wood, and ivory were (iii) _____, but paper and drawing tools were unknown until introduced by early explorers and missionaries.

A. traditional	D. affinities with	G. available locally
B. prestigious	E. objections to	H. rarely used
C. anomalous	F. regulations about	I. virtually interchangeable

6. For many years, Americans have had a love affair with ferryboats. Ferries are said to relieve our frayed nerves after we've stewed in bumper-to-bumper traffic, and conventional wisdom also says ferries (i)_____ congestion and air pollution by getting us out of cars. Unfortunately, this (ii)_____ notion recently has (iii)_____ several West Coast mayors, who have in consequence eagerly pursued the implementation of ferry service in their cities.

A. contribute to	D. provocative	G. captivated
B. reduce	E. misguided	H. confused
C. cover up	F. cynical	I. outraged

7. Circulatory systems on organisms originated in widely separated epochs, according to the fossil record, and under a broad range of circumstances, the myriad forms they take attest to that _____ of origin.

- A. mysteriousness
- B. randomness
- C. ambiguity
- D. heterogeneity
- E. indeterminacy
- F. diversity

8. Compared to their predecessors, who were more nationalist than feminist in political orientation, Roman women activists of the younger generation are more inclined to _____ women's rights, often creating organizations focused primarily on women's issues.

- A. expand
- B. de-emphasize
- C. champion
- D. idealize
- E. downplay
- F. defend

9. Individuals, governments, and companies show ample ability to _____ themselves by setting goals based on current conditions and then blindly following them even when those conditions change drastically.

- A. hamstring
- B. reinvent
- C. promote
- D. revitalize
- E. impair
- F. invigorate

10. The performer can be _____ in his comedy, but he is fundamentally a bighearted person who displays a core sweetness even at his most manic.

- A. inflammatory
- B. pedestrian
- C. gloomy
- D. uninspired
- E. puerile
- F. provocative

section 32 median

1. With the numerous opponents of the controversial new taxation measure in such a fury, anyone who publicly advocated the measure did not fail to meet with _____ usage.

- A. politic
- B. severe
- C. sober
- D. respectful
- E. dejected

2. She constantly _____ herself for not living up to her own ideas—for not working hard enough or not having motives that were pure enough.

- A. exalted
- B. coddled
- C. excoriated
- D. mollified
- E. deluded

3. Proponents of international regulation of environmental issues have always struggled against scientific uncertainty and economic hostility, two obstacles which, from a political standpoint, often have been closely related, as economic hostility toward environmental regulation for economic reasons have (i)_____ the considerable uncertainty underlying most environmental challenges to (ii)_____ of environmental regulation.

A. resolved	D. exaggerate the efficacy
B. gainsaid	E. downplay the legitimacy
C. exploited	F. question the fallibility

4. Many scholars have argued that the United States Supreme Court usually (i)_____ public opinion in its decisions because it fears that it will (ii)_____ if it does not; when it does depart from public opinion, it whips up political maelstroms.

A. comments on	D. lose public support
B. hews to	E. mitigate public anger
C. overrides	F. create public indifference

5. Analysis of 47.5-million-year-old fossils from Pakistan has yielded fresh insights into the early ancestors of modern whales. For example, *Maiacetus inuus* was a land animal (i)_____ life in the sea. One *Maiacetus inuus* fossil encased a fetus positioned for a head-first delivery, which is typical of a land mammal and suggests the species gave birth onshore. But it probably spent much of its time (ii)_____: its big teeth were suited for catching fish, while its flipper-like feet must have been (iii)_____ walking.

A. resistant	D. in the water	G. incompatible with
B. removed from	E. fleeing from predators	H. clumsy for
C. adapted to	F. protecting its young	I. strengthened by

6. Those who took Clark's old-mannered compliance for obsequiousness (i)_____ him: his apparent (ii)_____ veiled a fervent (iii)_____ of the authority that others exercised over him, one that he occasionally expressed by discreetly sabotaging their most important projects.

A. misconstrued	D. cynicism	G. veneration
B. condemned	E. acquiescence	H. justification
C. respected	F. intractability	I. detestation

7. In ways large and small, millions of people are taking active steps to _____ the medical mainstream, whether by taking herbal remedies for disease or by placing their hopes for a cure in alternative treatment.

- A. augment
- B. sidestep
- C. support
- D. vilify
- E. circumvent
- F. endorse

8. Although its gray text blocks and black-and-white illustrations give it a sober mien, this one-stop resource can take the place of a dozen less _____ texts.

- A. exhaustive
- B. interesting
- C. appealing
- D. original
- E. educational
- F. comprehensive

9. The media have constantly disparaged the governor's competence and have found a public only too eager to applaud their _____.

- A. assiduousness
- B. stupefaction
- C. mockery
- D. incredulity
- E. certitude
- F. derision

10. The _____ of ophthalmology as a field in the United States from 1820 to 1850 is evident in the opening of at least five eye hospitals during this period, offering new venues for ophthalmic treatment and experimentation.

- A. sophistication
- B. retrenchment
- C. burgeoning
- D. resurgence
- E. curtailment
- F. expansion

section 33 median

1. In his youth, the naturalist and artist John James Audubon was given to _____ glamorous tales about himself: he falsely claimed to have studied under a renowned French painter and hinted that he was the heir apparent to the French throne.

- A. disavowing
- B. understanding
- C. constraining
- D. obfuscating
- E. concocting

2. Holston characterized a colonial situation as an aggregation of activities and a conjunction of outcomes that, though _____ and at times coordinated, were usually diffuse, disorganized, and even contradictory.

- A. dubious
- B. chaotic
- C. harmonious
- D. linked
- E. imputed

3. In aquatic environments, the herbicide atrazine is more likely to (i)_____ developing amphibians when it is highly diluted than when it is much more concentrated, a new study suggests. Although counterintuitive, the finding is (ii)_____ some past research on atrazine and studies showing that other hormonally active compounds are most damaging at trace concentrations.

A. supplant	D. unanticipated given
B. kill	E. consistent with
C. circumvent	F. undiminished by

4. If newspaper consumers are concerned about more than (i)_____ and prefer to read news that is consistent with their beliefs, then (ii)_____ is not a journalistic flaw, but, rather, a cultivated feature. In a competitive news market, producers can use slant to differentiate their products and stave off price competition.

A. politics	D. bias
B. accuracy	E. sensationalism
C. expense	F. inconsistency

5. There are two opposing theories about mountain formation and climate over the past 40 million years: either the surge of mountain building (i)_____ the global cooling or vice versa. The first of these two theories asserts that widespread mountain building cooled the earth as a result of the (ii)_____ between mountains and climate. For example, mountain glaciers tend to be (iii)_____ : once established, they increase the reflectivity of the surface, thus lowering temperatures and allowing more ice to form.

A. superseded	D. disparity between	G. unpredictable
B. halted	E. feedback between	H. static
C. caused	F. complexity of	I. self-perpetuating

6. With the emergence of scientific history-writing in the late nineteenth century, several authors sought to ignore the glowing myths surrounding George Washington and uncover the human being within, but their biographies were still (i)_____ enough that Washington remained a marbled and remote figure. Indeed, by the 1920s Washington has become such (ii)_____ personage that inevitably someone had to go to the other extreme and try to (iii)_____ the legend.

A. ponderous	D. a deified	G. debunk
B. empirical	E. an ignored	H. aggrandize
C. laudatory	F. a misunderstood	I. reproduce

7. Aerial viewings of the gigantic stone horse attributed to the Native American Quechuan people fail to _____ the considerable artistry required to create the piece: the horse appears crudely constructed unless carefully examined from the ground.

- A. reveal
- B. justify
- C. manifest
- D. mitigate
- E. diminish
- F. undercut

8. The book aims to illuminate how science has changed the meaning of nothingness from _____ philosophical concept to something we can almost put under a microscope.

- A. a tangible
- B. a palpable
- C. a nebulous
- D. a nettlesome
- E. an incontrovertible
- F. a vague

9. Few ideas are more _____ than the notion that cultures evolve in Darwin fashion; many academics have begun writing about cultural evolution, but few treat the underlying Darwinian logic with the care it deserves.

- A. abused
- B. archaic
- C. misused
- D. outdated
- E. divisive
- F. derivative

10. The initial, widely shared pessimism turned out to be _____, because it ignored the many things that could be done with resources left behind.

- A. unintelligible
- B. unfathomable
- C. unfounded
- D. unimaginative
- E. unjustified
- F. unimportant

section 34 median

1. The space travels described in science fiction stories always used to be epic adventures, in comparison to which current journals in space seem quite _____.

- A. mundane
- B. exciting
- C. dramatic
- D. risky
- E. heroic

2. To criticize a disaster film for being _____ is a bit silly, since people do not go to disaster movies to see an honest portrayed of reality.

- A. expensive
- B. harrowing
- C. derivative
- D. convoluted
- E. implausible

3. The irony of digital networking is that it can produce more (i)_____ than did the geographical confinement it supposedly transcended. As human interactions become (ii)_____ physical location, people are less likely to have regular dealings with others who do not share the same values and outlooks.

A. provincialism	D. more determined by
B. diversity	E. less contingent on
C. materialism	F. less insensitive to

4. The mood of the times is no longer one of (i)_____ over our scientific achievements. Doubts and worries beset technical and scientific specialist, as well as the public at large. I do not consider such worries (ii)_____, though they are often based on intuitive feeling rather than on strictly logical arguments.

A. widening skepticism	D. unfounded
B. uncritical joy	E. sacrosanct
C. false humility	F. foreordained

5. Pioneering medical research scientists' (i)_____ claims regarding the (ii)_____ new researches make the public wonder their own doctors are not dispensing miracles. There are forces, both external and internal, on scientists that most require them to (iii)_____. Without money, there is no science. Researchers must constantly convince administrators who control tax dollars, investors, and individual donors that the work they are doing will make a difference.

A. modest	D. serious constraints on	G. improvise
B. inflated	E. overblown interpretations of	H. oversell
C. fastidious	F. potential benefits of	I. generalize

6. Despite the occasional (i)_____ of their venues, the culture of corporate conferences is a deeply (ii)_____ conference, each day consisted of nearly nine hours of continuous lectures and panels enlivened by pleasantries or anything that could be construed as a joke. The only (iii)_____ sensory deprivation of the sessions came from the handsome color slides favored by the corporate presenters.

A. seclusion	D. sycophantic	G. allusion to
B. opulence	E. ascetic	H. ramification of
C. enormity	F. mercenary	I. respite from

7. Historically, the depletion of soil's nitrogen has been one of the most _____ problems faced by farmers: an essential nutrient, nitrogen is quickly leached from soil, and farmers have struggled to find ways to replenish it.

- A. capricious
- B. ubiquitous
- C. worrisome
- D. stubborn
- E. intractable
- F. unpredictable

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

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

9. Although men still dominate the ranks of full professors in the field of astronomy, the increasing numbers of younger women in the field could _____ a change in its gender mix.

- A. require
- B. alleviate
- C. block
- D. presage
- E. portend
- F. hinder

10. An apparent paradox led the scientists to pursue their present line of research. They were struck by the fact that a single mathematics formula can be used to describe physical phenomena that appear to be so _____.

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

section 35 median

1. Medieval cathedrals still stand as marvels of architecture, but as far as modern science is concerned, medieval physics and chemistry are simply irrelevant, at best a dead end, at worst the very _____ of what science is supposed to be.

- A. exemplar
- B. glorification
- C. reflection
- D. dilution
- E. antithesis

2. For the urban researcher, the long lives of ancient cities can provide ample chronological data, making up for the paucity stemming from relative _____ of most present-day cities.

- A. complexity
- B. formlessness
- C. transparency
- D. diversity
- E. youthfulness

3. Britain's deteriorating economy after 1945 was (i)_____ by politicians who favored the manufacturing sector over the service sector: rather than attempting to (ii)_____ the decline of manufacturing, they should have promoted service industries.

A. mishandled	D. augment
B. bolstered	E. arrest
C. forestalled	F. escalate

4. The controversy about Alexander the Great's personality derives from the fact that our sources are (i)_____, all eyewitness accounts having perished. What remains is, at best, (ii)_____ (one history, for instance is based largely on the now-lost memoirs of Alexander's alleged half-brother, Ptolemy) and at worst, highly unreliable.

A. outdated	D. secondhand
B. inadequate	E. repetitious
C. abstruse	F. deceptive

5. Anna Gavalda's fiction is appealing largely because of her writing styles, which is certainly (i)_____. It is heavy on dialogue (and light on embellishment) features very short sections (of often only a few sentence) in rapid succession, and in general favors an unadorned directness. Not surprisingly, this style works better in short-story form than in novels, and the story collection *I Wish someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere* (ii)_____ her attempt to (iii)_____ it in novel, as in, for example, *Someone I loved*.

A. annoying	D. is thought to precede	G. undermine
B. distinctive	E. fails in comparison with	H. sustain
C. convoluted	F. impresses considerably more than	I. reject

6. For Plato the art of music was so (i)_____ moral and political reality that any alteration to music system would necessarily require a corresponding political shift. But two and a half millennia later, when classical music is generally seen merely as a lifestyle accessory, Plato's conception seems (ii)_____. To be sure, there are still people who consider classical music to be of (iii)_____ cultural importance, but few of them are able to articulate this convincingly.

A. rarely identified with	D. apt	G. marginal
B. tenuously connected to	E. absurd	H. profound
C. firmly anchored in	F. disingenuous	I. uncertain

7. In the northeastern United States, beaver populations had been critically reduced or even _____ in large areas at the end of nineteenth century; as a result, several states instituted prohibitions on beaver trapping.

- A. diminished
- B. extirpated
- C. eliminated
- D. devalued
- E. weakened
- F. underrated

8. The preliminary analysis being on the whole, reassuring its confirmation would _____ concerns about the dangers of project.

- A. explain
- B. deflate
- C. rationalize
- D. soothe
- E. reflect
- F. hide

9. Some kinds of deadly bacteria, including those that cause tetanus, tuberculosis, and botulism, remain _____ until something triggers their insidious activity.

- A. harmless
- B. innocuous
- C. anomalous
- D. aberrant
- E. efficacious
- F. undetectable

10. Titan, Saturn's largest moon, looks surprisingly _____, even though it is a cold, dimly lit world made from unknown materials.

- A. habitable
- B. familiar
- C. forbidding
- D. placid
- E. daunting
- F. recognizable

section 36 hard

1. Investors are grateful that the attorney general has stepped in to pursue inquiries into misfeasance in the financial markets, given that the regulators officially charged with policing the industry have been _____.

- A. diffident
- B. meticulous
- C. straightforward
- D. implacable
- E. tenacious

2. Consolidating memory is not instantaneous or even _____: every memory must be encoded and moved from short-term to long-term storage, and some of these memories are, for whatever reason, more vividly imprinted than others.

- A. salutary
- B. deliberate
- C. sequential
- D. momentary
- E. inevitable

3. The politician's record while in office, though (i)_____, hardly accounts for her high standard three decades later—a standing all the more (ii)_____ because of continuing assaults on her reputation during those years.

A. bewildering	D. unusual
B. admirable	E. regrettable
C. unappreciated	F. persistent

4. Although it is not uncommon for journalists to portray political inexperience on the part of public officials as an (i)_____, it was nevertheless surprising when members of the press treated the new senator's obvious (ii)_____ as an extraordinary virtue.

A. advantage	D. nonchalance
B. impediment	E. acumen
C. exception	F. naiveté

5. When a new scientific model emerges, research studies (i)_____ that paradigm tend to dominate in the scientific literature: the process of selecting articles for publication is tilted towards positive results. But once the paradigm (ii)_____, the academic incentives shift in the opposite direction: research results are more considered worthy publication when they (iii)_____ what has become the established view.

A. tweaking	D. is initially articulated	G. bolster
B. affirming	E. has become entrenched	H. circumvent
C. controverting	F. is about to be attacked	I. undermine

6. The historian of ancient science Otto Neugebauer concluded that Babylonian astronomical texts are (i) _____ because everything has been eliminated from the astronomy except observations and the mathematical consequences of an initial hypothesis about the fundamental character of the astronomical movements. This judgment cohered with the high level of mathematical theory, which (ii) _____ mathematical computation together with empirical observations as (iii) _____ of science and denied any role to speculative hypotheses of a strongly theoretical nature.

A. questionable	D. repudiated	G. end result
B. scientific	E. admitted	H. necessary characteristics
C. limited	F. confounded	I. discredited path

7. The initial, widely shared pessimism turned out to be _____, because it ignored the many things that could be done with resources left behind.

- A. unintelligible
- B. unfathomable
- C. unfounded
- D. unimaginative
- E. unjustified
- F. unimportant

8. Despite a tendency to be overtly _____, her poetry does not consist solely of pious sentiments: it often sparks the imagination and provides lively entertainment.

- A. preachy
- B. querulous
- C. insincere
- D. sanctimonious
- E. plaintive
- F. disingenuous

9. Willian Perkins, his _____ speaking style notwithstanding, has long been seen as the moderate face of his political party.

- A. fiery
- B. genteel
- C. bumbling
- D. unremarkable
- E. affable
- F. impassioned

10. Although in his new book he tends to repeat himself like a _____ uncle, McHughen makes a persuasive case for the safety of tinkering with genes to create new foods.

- A. taciturn
- B. reserved
- C. prototypical
- D. cantankerous
- E. loquacious
- F. garrulous

section 37 hard

1. Instead of demonstrating the _____ of archaeological applications of electronic remote sensing, the pioneering study became, to some skeptics, an illustration of the imprudence of interpreting sites based on virtual archaeology.

- A. ubiquity
- B. limitation
- C. promise
- D. redundancy
- E. complexity

2. While the writer was best known for her much-ballyhooed _____, her impact reached far beyond memorable quips.

- A. pensiveness
- B. drollness
- C. stoicism
- D. fastidiousness
- E. congeniality

3. Contrary to those who fear the impact of invasive species on native plants, the biologists contend that the threat posed to biodiversity by nonnative species is often (i)_____. For instance, a study of garlic mustard, a nonnative plant now thriving in Minnesota's oak forests, found that garlic mustard abundance in forest plots was not (ii)_____ the number of other plant species there.

A. subtle	D. consistent with
B. uniform	E. related to
C. exaggerated	F. sustained by

4. So, perhaps the lesson is that rather than wanting their monarchy to (i)_____ its modernized Scandinavian counterparts, the British public cherishes it most when it is most (ii)_____.

A. commend	D. egalitarian
B. discount	E. anachronistic
C. emulate	F. regal

5. The notion of film producers as the ogres of the movie business has proved an (i)_____ one, but according to *The Producers* by Tim Adler, it is not always grounded in reality. Attacking what he calls the "auteur myth"—the idea of the director as the single purveyor of art in an industry otherwise peopled with (ii)_____—he places at the heart of his book an image of the producer, not the director, as the primary (iii)_____ force in the development and production of a movie.

A. accurate	D. visionaries	G. financial
B. hypocritic	E. profitmongers	H. inertial
C. enduring	F. innocents	I. creative

6. The (i)_____ nature of the candidate's comments is calculated. As a long-standing target of critics who regard him as radical, he understands that he needs to be as (ii)_____ as possible if he is to overcome those critiques and appear as a (iii)_____ leader.

A. opprobrious	D. innocuous	G. polarizing
B. platitudinous	E. truculent	H. cautious
C. pugnacious	F. supercilious	I. conciliatory

7. Joshua Gisemba Bagaka found that the pedagogical results of group projects and other engaged learning activities in Kenyan mathematics classroom were _____; such activities, then, may not be the best way of improving mathematics education.

- A. overstated
- B. counterintuitive
- C. mixed
- D. discouraging
- E. inconsistent
- F. inexplicable

8. Architects may be more extroverted and therefore the more _____ members of a bridge design team, but they are not always the most essential.

- A. indispensable
- B. conscientious
- C. reliable
- D. visible
- E. valuable
- F. salient

9. Excessive focus on what might have been can cause in us feelings of restlessness and regret, but some scientists are beginning to think that fancying an alternative reality might have _____ effects as well.

- A. subtle
- B. adverse
- C. restorative
- D. pleasurable
- E. unfavorable
- F. tonic

10. Apparent flaws in the sculptor's work have not _____ its respectful reception by most modern critics.

- A. determined
- B. controlled
- C. undermined
- D. prevented
- E. overshadowed
- F. precluded

section 38 hard

1. The governor might conceivably find a genuine resolution to the budgetary dilemma, but she may be tempted to engage in a deception: a _____ exercise in fiscal prudence.

- A. rigorous
- B. sparking
- C. specious
- D. blatant
- E. convincing

2. Without seeming unworldly, William James appeared wholly removed from the _____ of society, the conventionality of academy.

- A. ethos
- B. idealism
- C. romance
- D. paradoxes
- E. commonplaces

3. Convinced of the gravity of her poetry, Voigt must have found the reviews of her most recent collection (i)_____ reading: one amused reviewer thought that it was unrecognizable as poetry but decidedly (ii)_____.

A. tempting	D. inspiring
B. depressing	E. irritating
C. thrilling	F. diverting

4. The author's best-selling book on Virginia Woolf is not (i)_____ treatment of her subject; on the contrary, it presents (ii)_____ portrait of the novelist, faults and all.

A. an idealized	D. an unflinching
B. a comprehensive	E. a slapdash
C. a compelling	F. an erudite

5. The new art museum's (i)_____ building augurs well for that ambitious institution because it speaks of (ii)_____ contemporary architecture on the part of the board of directors that may (iii)_____ equal astuteness about contemporary art.

A. nondescript	D. a discernment about	G. conceal
B. outstanding	E. a hostility toward	H. supplant
C. outdated	F. an intoxication by	I. promise

6. The modern iron suspension bridge dates from the early nineteenth century, but it did not have (i)_____ debut; many early suspension bridges were damaged, if not outright destroyed, by the wind. There were few (ii)_____, however, so the form (iii)_____.

A. a propitious	D. obvious parallels	G. declined
B. a conspicuous	E. practical alternatives	H. inspired
C. an equivocal	F. unnoticed instances	I. persisted

7. It's hardly _____ the committee calls for: rudimentary competence would be an improvement on the current chaos.

- A. accountability
- B. disarray
- C. unruliness
- D. faultlessness
- E. loyalty
- F. perfection

8. One of the vocalists who auditioned for a leading part in the local production of Sweeney Todd seemed to prefer _____ to any attempt at producing a melody; a more unpleasant voice was hard to imagine.

- A. warbling
- B. imitating
- C. improvising
- D. shrieking
- E. crooning
- F. caterwauling

9. Even if the story now seems a surprisingly innocuous overture to the author's later, more fully developed narrations, it _____ some of the key traits of those bleaker tales.

- A. avoids
- B. belies
- C. undercuts
- D. anticipates
- E. possesses
- F. prefigures

10. While recognizing that recent reports of cyber warfare, phone-hacking scandals, and identity thefts have tended to accent the destructive connotation of the word, Sue Halpern maintains that "hacking" is such _____ term that its meaning nearly always derives from its context.

- A. a generic
- B. an inclusive
- C. a positive
- D. a subjective
- E. an affirmative
- F. a technical

section 39 hard

1. The idea of a “language instinct” may seem _____ to those who think of language as the zenith of the human intellect and of instincts as brute impulses.

- A. jarring
- B. plausible
- C. gratifying
- D. inevitable
- E. conciliatory

2. The artist is known for making photographs that deal with politically charged subject matter, yet because her art is so evocative and open-ended, it would be wrong to characterize it as _____.

- A. polemical
- B. edifying
- C. unobservant
- D. innovative
- E. ambiguous

3. Nordhaus predicts that in the future we will increasingly be (i)_____ ecological problems like global warming rather than (ii)_____ them. We may, for example, make some headway in limiting emissions that contribute to warming, but much of our work will be in adapting to ecological problems and alleviating their effects.

A. managing	D. solving
B. analyzing	E. addressing
C. transcending	F. mitigating

4. The contemporary trend whereby fashion designers flout mainstream tradition is unique only in its (i)_____; earlier fashion designers experience the same (ii)_____ impulse, albeit in a less extreme form.

A. subversiveness	D. indiscriminate
B. intensity	E. iconoclastic
C. culpability	F. temperate

5. The characters in this comic strip fret about the (i)_____ of their “little counterculture lives”, especially when terrible things are happening in the world, but the cartoonist makes their lives (ii)_____ in ways that do not seem (iii)_____ at all. Real things happen here—births, deaths, adoptions, affairs, breakups, commitments, ceremonies, civil union—and they matter.

A. unpredictability	D. stagnate	G. outlandish
B. arduousness	E. resonate	H. inconsequential
C. triviality	F. compete	I. intangible

6. A certain amount of theoretical frenzy about comics today is (i)_____. After all, similar frenzies have been in other art forms in periods of their rapid development, for instance, the debates about painting that roiled Renaissance Italy. But such intellectual (ii)_____ rarely precedes creative glory. On the contrary, it commonly indicates that an artistic (iii)_____, having been made and recognized, is over, and that a process of increasing strained emulation and diminishing returns has set in.

A. understandable	D. torpor	G. pitfall
B. unprecedented	E. conservatism	H. tradition
C. perplexing	F. arousal	I. breakthrough

7. When studying the ancient Greek astronomers, Copernicus realized that despite the intrinsic beauty of many of their arguments, the ancients often made claims that _____ logic.

- A. refuted
- B. questioned
- C. influenced
- D. swayed
- E. defied
- F. disregarded

8. Although Wynne claims to recognize that _____ evidence is available to make definitive statement, she offers them nonetheless, arriving at some sweeping generalizations.

- A. concrete
- B. finite
- C. insufficient
- D. indirect
- E. conclusive
- F. meager

9. In order to cultivate new repertoire, the music industry is providing a hearing for previously _____ composers.

- A. idle
- B. thwarted
- C. celebrated
- D. renowned
- E. anonymous
- F. obscure

10. Although many skeptics of the scientific theory _____ critiques that have long since been disproved, some of the doubters arguably bring up valid points.

- A. overlook
- B. revise
- C. recycle
- D. utilize
- E. neglect
- F. rehash

section 40 hard

1. The medical professor's thesis—hardly new, but rarely _____ by a faculty members of his distinction—is that patients are more than the sum of their symptoms and systems.

- A. discounted
- B. ignored
- C. subverted
- D. underestimated
- E. espoused

2. Even if he wants to serve again—and given his obvious love for the job, the assumption among insiders is that he is more likely to stay than go—there is at least _____ his serving another term.

- A. impediment to
- B. incentive for
- C. precedent for
- D. benefit in
- E. rationale for

3. Memory-prompt technology such as online birthday reminders does more than enhance our recall abilities; it induces us to (i) _____ ever more behaviors to automated processes. Witness the (ii) _____ a program that allows us to create computer greeting cards for the entire year in one sitting.

A. delegate	D. controversy over
B. ascribe	E. popularity of
C. liken	F. sophistication of

4. While people complain about their hectic lives and demanding schedules, one might be justified in suspecting that they are being somewhat (i) _____: compulsive busyness seems to be, for many, a source of (ii) _____.

A. disingenuous	D. pride
B. guarded	E. despair
C. dilatory	F. irritation

5. Applications of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have fared best in contexts in which habitat condition is closely linked to species condition and the cause of habitat degradation is easily identified. The achievements of the ESA in those contexts, however, have (i) _____ that other uses of the act can (ii) _____ that record even where such favorable conditions do not (iii) _____.

A. quelled the conviction	D. mitigate	G. vary
B. presaged the uncertainty	E. duplicate	H. pertain
C. fostered the misconception	F. elucidate	I. diminish

6. Scientific papers often (i)_____ what actually happened in the course of the investigations they describe. Misunderstandings, blind alleys, and mistakes of various sorts will fail to appear in the final written accounts because (ii)_____ is a desirable attribute when transmitting results in a scientific report and would be poorly served by (iii)_____.

A. amplify	D. transparency	G. a comprehensive historical account
B. misrepresent	E. efficiency	H. a purely quantitative analysis
C. particularize	F. exhaustiveness	I. an overly superficial discussion

7. In a number of instances, investors hoping to tap into the region's meteoric growth have instead faced problems ranging from unpredictable management practices to outright _____.

- A. malfeasance
- B. incompetence
- C. fraudulence
- D. capriciousness
- E. hysteria
- F. impulsiveness

8. To call Kermode the finest English critic of his generation would be a _____ compliment, since not many of its population are professionally engaged in literary criticism.

- A. sincere
- B. backhanded
- C. paltry
- D. heartfelt
- E. meager
- F. plausible

9. Even though the original settlement may not hold up, it at least proves that the deadlock can be broken and that a hitherto _____ party is ready to bargain.

- A. implacable
- B. unyielding
- C. impeccable
- D. flawless
- E. unqualified
- F. capricious

10. In sharp contrast to the novel's scenic realism and precisely characterized figure is its persistent philosophical _____.

- A. naturalism
- B. abstraction
- C. generality
- D. impartiality
- E. sincerity
- F. objectivity

section 41 hard

1. Many creative photographers were delighted to find in instant photography a mode that encouraged them to stop viewing photography as _____ and start viewing it as something they could handle with spontaneity, even derision.

- A. sacrosanct
- B. ephemeral
- C. malleable
- D. egalitarian
- E. autonomous

2. Consolidating memory is not instantaneous or even _____: every memory must be encoded and moved from short-term to long-term storage, and some of these memories are, for whatever reason, more vividly imprinted than others.

- A. salutary
- B. deliberate
- C. sequential
- D. momentary
- E. inevitable

3. The reclusive clergyman may have lived and died in melancholy, but this doesn't seem to have (i)_____ his genius in any way. On the contrary, we find ourselves wondering whether his genius wasn't (ii)_____ in some mysterious way by his mood.

A. influenced	D. served
B. hampered	E. controlled
C. triggered	F. identified

4. The museum's compelling new architectural exhibition looks at eleven projects around the world that have had major (i)_____ impacts despite modest budgets. It is part of (ii)_____ in the museum's architecture and design department, which in the past has championed architecture's artistic value over its real-world consequences.

A. social	D. an emphasis on theory
B. aesthetic	E. a shift in philosophy
C. critical	F. a rejection of pragmatism

5. Even the reader acquainted with the outlines of Pushkin's biography will be (i)_____ the (ii)_____ so vividly conveyed in Binyon's biography. Not only was Pushkin's personal correspondence intercepted and his movements (iii)_____, but Tsar Nicholas I's decision to oversee Pushkin's career obliged Pushkin to submit all his manuscripts for inspection.

A. attracted by	D. suffocating lack of creative freedom	G. ignored
B. confused by	E. concern for contemporary society	H. monitored
C. struck by	F. underlying sense of historical change	I. commended

6. The notion of film producers as the ogres of the movie business has proved an (i)_____ one, but according to *The Producers* by Tim Adler, it is not always grounded in reality. Attacking what he calls the “auteur myth”—the idea of the director as the single purveyor of art in an industry otherwise peopled with (ii)_____—he places at the heart of his book an image of the producer, not the director, as the primary (iii)_____ force in the development and production of a movie.

A. accurate	D. visionaries	G. financial
B. hypocritic	E. profitmongers	H. inertial
C. enduring	F. innocents	I. creative

7. Her attempts to wrest fiction free from traditional constraints like plot and character were never entirely popular with readers; nonetheless, her fiction has had _____ influence on critical theory, novel, cinema, and even psychology.

- A. a studied
- B. a negligible
- C. a decisive
- D. an unmistakable
- E. an insignificant
- F. a restorative

8. The physics graveyard is strewn with the skeletons of failed theories, unexplained effects, and anomalous particles that briefly _____ the research spotlight, then rapidly fade from view.

- A. douse
- B. intensify
- C. perpetuate
- D. capture
- E. extinguish
- F. secure

9. The media have constantly disparaged the governor's competence and have found a public only too eager to applaud their _____.

- A. assiduousness
- B. stupefaction
- C. mockery
- D. incredulity
- E. certitude
- F. derision

10. Science is arguably a very high-minded pursuit, but that is not to say that all of its practitioners are _____, as numerous articles alleging overly generous pharmaceutical industry payments to medical researchers have tried to show.

- A. conventional
- B. clever
- C. unimpeachable
- D. ingenious
- E. blameless
- F. predictable

section 42 hard

1. Some ethicists worry that a deeper understanding of the brain may be tantamount to ____; if we discover that free will is an illusion of neural circuitry, how will we hold people responsible for their actions?

- A. vindication
- B. proscription
- C. ministration
- D. valediction
- E. exculpation

2. Instead of demonstrating the ____ of archaeological applications of electronic remote sensing, the pioneering study became, to some skeptics, an illustration of the imprudence of interpreting sites based on virtual archaeology.

- A. ubiquity
- B. limitation
- C. promise
- D. redundancy
- E. complexity

3. Partly because of Lee's skill at synthesizing (i)____ trends drawn from many fields of study, her theories appeared to present, with uncanny aptness, ideas already (ii)____ in the minds of her contemporaries.

A. superseded	D. discredited
B. irrelevant	E. well established
C. emergent	F. half-formulated

4. Recent scholarship has questioned the (i)____ of tropical forests around the world. Archaeologists have shown, for example, that the largest contiguous tract of what was thought to be virgin rain forest in the southern Amazon had been transformed into a cultural parkland before European contact, and many of the forest islands in West Africa's savanna forest transition zone are (ii)____ as well.

A. diversity	D. isolated
B. naturalness	E. endangered
C. sustainability	F. anthropogenic

5. Viewing people as "social atoms" that obey rather simple rule (which are not unlike the laws of physics), one may discover certain (i)____. Take, for example, the way channels emerge when people move in crowds. In the midst of initially (ii)____ movements, one person begins to follow another—in an effort to avoid collisions—and streams of movement emerge. As more people join in, there is greater pull on others to join the flow, and the particular channels become (iii)____.

A. apparent contradictions	D. inflexible	G. self-defeating
B. unproductive tendencies	E. straightforward	H. self-aggrandizing
C. lawlike regulations	F. chaotic	I. self-perpetuating

6. Fifty pages of footnotes, some of them presenting quite lengthy bibliographies, suggest that very few pertinent sources on the Black Arts movement in literature have (i)_____ Thompson's search; (ii)_____, the text makes it clear that the author's examination of these sources has been similarly (iii)_____.

A. eluded	D. moreover	G. valuable
B. characterized	E. however	H. timely
C. motivated	F. consequently	I. exhaustive

7. The town's air was consistently _____: depending on the breeze, one might be greeted with the sour effluvia of twenty breweries, choking fumes from the coal factory, or brackish smells from the nearby river.

- A. malodorous
- B. toxic
- C. redolent
- D. benign
- E. noisome
- F. anodyne

8. One of the vocalists who auditioned for a leading part in the local production of Sweeney Todd seemed to prefer _____ to any attempt at producing a melody; a more unpleasant voice was hard to imagine.

- A. warbling
- B. imitating
- C. improvising
- D. shrieking
- E. crooning
- F. caterwauling

9. Some experts estimate that the recreational salmon fishery in British Columbia contributes more to the province's economy than the commercial salmon fishery does—a surprising statistic given the political commercial _____ of the fishery in the province.

- A. naïveté
- B. prominence
- C. supremacy
- D. ingenuousness
- E. salience
- F. resurgence

10. In 1884, Sewall and Dow agreed to join Roosevelt in the Dakota territory for reasons that appear to have been _____: Sewall later recalled that Roosevelt guaranteed them a share of anything made in his cattle business.

- A. pecuniary
- B. straightforward
- C. economic
- D. selfless
- E. quixotic
- F. altruistic

section 43 hard

1. Of all her works, this play is the most dependent on the dramatic conventions of the author's day: it was both the least _____ of her plays and the most commercially successful.

- A. experimental
- B. popular
- C. formulaic
- D. lucrative
- E. contemporary

2. Carmen's affection for her sister, though not _____, was plainly too great to permit a painless departure.

- A. unsteady
- B. ambivalent
- C. careless
- D. unbounded
- E. noticeable

3. It can be (i)_____ to read Margaret Fuller's travel writing, as she produced accounts of her travel that (ii)_____ conventions of bourgeois travel narrative, often capitulating to the most well-worn clichés of the genre at precisely the moments when she sought most energetically to cast them off in favor of some new, more passionate mode of discernment.

A. frustrating	D. challenged
B. enlightening	E. conformed to
C. exciting	F. established

4. So, perhaps the lesson is that rather than wanting their monarchy to (i)_____ its modernized Scandinavian counterparts, the British public cherishes it most when it is most (ii)_____.

A. commend	D. egalitarian
B. discount	E. anachronistic
C. emulate	F. regal

5. Unquestionably, the particular forms that folly and cruelty take in Jane Austen's novels are (i)_____ the character's social milieu, which was also Austen's own; but to realize that one's society motivates people in unfortunate ways is not necessarily to (ii)_____ it, for the alternatives, though different, might be no more (iii)_____.

A. shaped by	D. expose	G. salutary
B. removed from	E. condemn	H. corrosive
C. unrecognizable in	F. rationalize	I. realistic

6. While some commentators suggest that abstraction and complexity in scientific research are signs that a given direction is misguided, Lisa Randall, a professor of physics at Harvard, counters that these qualities instead reflect the success of human ingenuity in (i)_____ the increasingly (ii)_____ challenges that nature presents. They can, however, make it more (iii)_____ to communicate scientific developments, even to colleague.

A. creating	D. difficult	G. challenging
B. meeting	E. conspicuous	H. unproductive
C. eschewing	F. pragmatic	I. advantageous

7. Because movie studios, under pressure to generate international sales, have favored big-budget pictures with fantasy plots, the representation of everyday domestic life has largely been _____ other media, such as television and literature.

- A. left to
- B. ceded to
- C. ascribed to
- D. attributed to
- E. substituted for
- F. replaced with

8. In order to cultivate new repertoire, the music industry is providing a hearing for previously _____ composers.

- A. idle
- B. thwarted
- C. celebrated
- D. renowned
- E. anonymous
- F. obscure

9. It's hardly _____ the committee calls for: rudimentary competence would be an improvement on the current chaos.

- A. accountability
- B. disarray
- C. unruliness
- D. faultlessness
- E. loyalty
- F. perfection

10. Contrary to certain recent analyses that paint a dire portrait of soil loss from farmland, a new study of surveying data reaching back to the 1930s shows that erosion rates have been steadily _____.

- A. intensifying
- B. waning
- C. accelerating
- D. worsening
- E. declining
- F. deteriorating

section 44 hard

1. The science of astronomy was begun by amateurs and today remains dependent on their contributions, which are incisive by virtue of being _____ by the a priori assumptions that often vitiate the work of professional research scientists.

- A. characterized
- B. unencumbered
- C. supported
- D. contradicted
- E. inspired

2. Without seeming unworldly, William James appeared wholly removed from the _____ of society, the conventionality of academy.

- A. ethos
- B. idealism
- C. romance
- D. paradoxes
- E. commonplaces

3. The (i)_____ to disseminate the vast scientific knowledge of our time to nonscientists shows real (ii)_____ the extent of achievements humanity is capable of, like allowing a great work of art to molder in a warehouse.

A. failure	D. pretentious regarding
B. plan	E. sympathy toward
C. willingness	F. indifference to

4. Unlike the elected branches of the United States government, where making personal connection with citizens is (i)_____ and almost (ii)_____ political efficacy, the United States Supreme Court continues to maintain that its members should communicate with the public almost exclusively through formal opinions—and even then through ceremonial rituals that date back to the nineteenth century.

A. frowned upon	D. a requirement for
B. rampant	E. a detriment to
C. disregarded	F. an irrelevance to

5. A transformative scientific idea that emerged in the eighteenth century was the realization that slow, inexorable geological processes follow the basic laws of physics and chemistry. This seems (i)_____ conclusion in hindsight, but its implication—that geological processes in the distant past must have (ii)_____ these very same laws—was (iii)_____ geologists in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

A. an obvious	D. followed	G. evident to
B. a significant	E. preceded	H. overlooked by
C. a controversial	F. entailed	I. revolutionary for

6. It is possible for human to go 40 or more hours without sleep and still be able to (i)_____ information acquired at the beginning of the sleepless period. Thus, when we are considering a role for sleep in human memory consolidation, we are referring to a possible role in the (ii)_____ encoding of information and optimizing of recall, not a (iii)_____ of sleep for recalling events of the prior day.

A. legitimize	D. longer-term	G. requirement
B. augment	E. acute	H. surplus
C. disgorge	F. qualitative	I. facet

7. Communicating articulately is typically regarded as an aggressive, persuasive talent, but it can also be protective: it allows a certain _____ closeness, conveying proximity while actually maintaining distance.

- A. feigned
- B. secretive
- C. dubious
- D. subtle
- E. false
- F. furtive

8. The Chavez Pass archaeological site was initially interpreted as indicative of _____ society, since it was thought to have been at the center of a cluster of smaller, contemporary settlements that it presumably controlled.

- A. an expansionist
- B. a hierarchical
- C. an urban
- D. a heterogeneous
- E. a diverse
- F. a stratified

9. Although the essayist's arguments did not _____ her most perceptive readers, the extreme subtlety of the points she made explains why she was misinterpreted by most critics of her day.

- A. convince
- B. confound
- C. entertain
- D. persuade
- E. perplex
- F. enlighten

10. Architects may be more extroverted and therefore the more _____ members of a bridge design team, but they are not always the most essential.

- A. indispensable
- B. conscientious
- C. reliable
- D. visible
- E. valuable
- F. salient

section 45 hard

1. The maps in this volume are meant not as guides but as ____: they are designed to make the reader think anew about the city.

- A. adornments
- B. references
- C. truisms
- D. provocations
- E. valedictions

2. Carmen's affection for her sister, though not ____, was plainly too great to permit a painless departure.

- A. unsteady
- B. ambivalent
- C. careless
- D. unbounded
- E. noticeable

3. Argument may be an overly (i)____ word to apply to the gossamer contrivance that is *A Summer of Humming birds*. In what seems a self-conscious (ii)____ of its mascot the book flits from one subject or moment in history to another, following the various whims of its author.

A. archaic	D. repudiation
B. imprecise	E. emulation
C. robust	F. misrepresentation

4. The contemporary trend whereby fashion designers flout mainstream tradition is unique only in its (i)____; earlier fashion designers experience the same (ii)____ impulse, albeit in a less extreme form.

A. subversiveness	D. indiscriminate
B. intensity	E. iconoclastic
C. culpability	F. temperate

5. Behavior economists found that the more (i)____ options listed on the insurance make people all the more offish to endorse, partly because they hope to (ii)____ some (iii)____ in order to get a measure of peace of mind.

A. lucrative	D. forgo	G. convolution
B. monotonous	E. dampen	H. detriment
C. complicated	F. jockey	I. benefit

6. The slow pace of job creation was without precedent for the period of recovery from a recession, but the conditions that conspired to cause the recession were also (i)_____. The stock market declined sharply, and rampant business investment slumped. Then an ensuing spate of scandals (ii)_____ public trust in the way companies were run. And yet, despite these powerful (iii)_____ to growth, the recession proved surprisingly mild.

A. heartening	D. weakened	G. counterforces
B. atypical	E. illuminated	H. stimulants
C. ambiguous	F. consolidated	I. concomitants

7. Citing the corruption and intrigue that pervaded politics in the city, my colleague _____ the newspaper's trove of journalism prizes, declaring that finding great stories in the city must be effortless.

- A. slighted
- B. ignored
- C. lauded
- D. disparaged
- E. confounded
- F. commended

8. When studying the ancient Greek astronomers, Copernicus realized that despite the intrinsic beauty of many of their arguments, the ancients often made claims that _____ logic.

- A. refuted
- B. questioned
- C. influenced
- D. swayed
- E. defied
- F. disregarded

9. Films that critics have slumbered through rarely generate industry excitement, even though the critics' _____ reception may be less the fault of the movie than of its unfortunate time slot near a fatiguing film festival's conclusion.

- A. somnolent
- B. impartial
- C. lethargic
- D. laconic
- E. befuddled
- F. evenhanded

10. Even though his opponent is currently trying to portray him as a wild-eyed radical, voters will likely reject this charge because it does not _____ his moderate political record.

- A. defer to
- B. conform to
- C. accede to
- D. argue with
- E. meddle with
- F. square with

section 46 hard

1. Neuroscientists are excited by technological progress that facilitates brain mapping, the most _____ of them comparing their growing abilities to tremendous advances that led to unimaginable success of the Human Genome Project.

- A. rigorous
- B. sanguine
- C. punctilious
- D. unorthodox
- E. sophisticated

2. It seems foolish to refuse the offer of an expedient that is both so _____ success and so difficult to create them absent.

- A. reminiscent of
- B. lacking in
- C. distinct from
- D. indispensable to
- E. inimical to

3. The genius of the scientific method is that it (i)_____ the dictum of Aristotle that the goal of science is knowledge of the ultimate cause of things. True science, we now know, advances human knowledge by (ii)_____ ultimate causes and focusing instead on the testing of empirical hypotheses.

A. qualifies	D. ignoring
B. jettisons	E. predicting
C. affirms	F. confirming

4. For decades, economic ideas have been (i)_____ political purpose. Economists, for example, have peddled their theories as a way of gaining public prominence or political appointment, while politicians have (ii)_____ economic doctrines as possible solutions to the nation's social problems.

A. undermined by	D. rejected
B. inspired by	E. ignored
C. exploited for	F. promoted

5. Several studies (i)_____ the assumption that paper cups, because they were made of natural products, were more environmentally (ii)_____ than cups made of plastic (polystyrene). Indeed, these studies indicated that the environmental (iii)_____ of producing and recycling paper cups were similar to, if not more than, those related to the production, disposal, and recycling of polystyrene cups.

A. corroborated	D. friendly	G. benefits
B. exploited	E. hazardous	H. costs
C. dispelled	F. predictable	I. opportunities

6. For many years, Americans have had a love affair with ferryboats. Ferries are said to relieve our frayed nerves after we've stewed in bumper-to-bumper traffic, and conventional wisdom also says ferries (i)_____ congestion and air pollution by getting us out of cars. Unfortunately, this (ii)_____ notion recently has (iii)_____ several West Coast mayors, who have in consequence eagerly pursued the implementation of ferry service in their cities.

A. contribute to	D. provocative	G. captivated
B. reduce	E. misguided	H. confused
C. cover up	F. cynical	I. outraged

7. In noting that critical and popular opinions about Li's art coincided, Chuang _____ the existence of an exception to her general theory of art criticism, which posits that critics' views do not intersect with those of the general public.

- A. asserted
- B. conceded
- C. acknowledged
- D. doubted
- E. pondered
- F. questioned

8. Excessive focus on what might have been can cause in us feelings of restlessness and regret, but some scientists are beginning to think that fancying an alternative reality might have _____ effects as well.

- A. subtle
- B. adverse
- C. restorative
- D. pleasurable
- E. unfavorable
- F. tonic

9. As a historical genre, biography is best when _____, a careful reconstruction of the past in all its unfamiliar particularity.

- A. introspective
- B. reflective
- C. concrete
- D. concise
- E. meticulous
- F. thorough

10. Explorers could not build each other's knowledge if they could not trust records of previous explorers; thus exploration depended on the _____ of those who had gone before.

- A. collegiality
- B. endurance
- C. exactitude
- D. meticulousness
- E. eminence
- F. tenacity

section 47 hard

1. The science community's perennial lament over inadequate budgets has come to seem increasing _____, because government support for science and engineering has never been greater.

- A. vital
- B. hopeless
- C. poignant
- D. condescending
- E. disingenuous

2. In modern times, friendship has become a _____ relationship: a form of connection in terms of which all are understood and against which all are measured.

- A. conciliatory
- B. mercenary
- C. paradigmatic
- D. contentious
- E. supplementary

3. As he has matured as a scholar, Felmar has come to see the merit of qualification. His conclusions, which early in his career he (i)_____, are now often (ii)_____.

A. stated as absolutes	D. hedged
B. refused to reveal	E. simplified
C. backed up extensively	F. reiterated

4. Unlike the elected branches of the United States government, where making personal connection with citizens is (i)_____ and almost (ii)_____ political efficacy, the United States Supreme Court continues to maintain that its members should communicate with the public almost exclusively through formal opinions—and even then through ceremonial rituals that date back to the nineteenth century.

A. frowned upon	D. a requirement for
B. rampant	E. a detriment to
C. disregarded	F. an irrelevance to

5. Schechter is atypically (i)_____ the film version of Stephen King's horror novel *The shining* because the qualities for which the majority of other critics have approved it (its artful camera work and so on) get in the way of narrative and render the story less, rather than more, (ii)_____ than other films of the same genre. This is not (iii)_____ view, and we must be grateful to Schechter for putting it forward.

A. unimpressed with	D. heartbreaking	G. a commonplace
B. confused by	E. comical	H. a superior
C. enamored of	F. terrifying	I. an unfamiliar

6. Inuit print making is less (i)_____ than carving in that it does not have substantial historical precedents, although there are (ii)_____ incised carvings on bone or antler, facial tattoo marks or inlay skin work on clothing, mitts and footwear. Carving materials such as stone, bone, antler, wood, and ivory were (iii)_____, but paper and drawing tools were unknown until introduced by early explorers and missionaries.

A. traditional	D. affinities with	G. available locally
B. prestigious	E. objections to	H. rarely used
C. anomalous	F. regulations about	I. virtually interchangeable

7. The _____ nature of the approval process for new drugs suggests that incentives to promote more expeditious decision making may be necessary.

- A. pecuniary
- B. commercial
- C. arbitrary
- D. sluggish
- E. capricious
- F. dilatory

8. The critic claims that, contrary to its reputation for _____, the novelist's prose is full of opaque language games.

- A. scrupulousness
- B. simplicity
- C. mendacity
- D. artlessness
- E. polish
- F. meticulousness

9. Not only is the advent of bookless or largely bookless libraries too large and powerful a change to be _____, it also offers too many real advantages for it to be considered a tragedy.

- A. understood
- B. averted
- C. foreseen
- D. forestalled
- E. endured
- F. anticipated

10. Her attempts to wrest fiction free from traditional constraints like plot and character were never entirely popular with readers; nonetheless, her fiction has had _____ influence on critical theory, novel, cinema, and even psychology.

- A. a studied
- B. a negligible
- C. a decisive
- D. an unmistakable
- E. an insignificant
- F. a restorative

section 48 hard

1. Even those observers who are the most _____ about genetic privacy issues would have to concede that genetic discrimination is rare: there have only been two cases of any notoriety.

- A. sanguine
- B. zealous
- C. candid
- D. objective
- E. apathetic

2. Many creative photographers were delighted to find in instant photography a mode that encouraged them to stop viewing photography as _____ and start viewing it as something they could handle with spontaneity, even derision.

- A. sacrosanct
- B. ephemeral
- C. malleable
- D. egalitarian
- E. autonomous

3. The description of humans as having an internal clock is not a (i) _____. Or rather, it is—you do not have a tiny watch in your cerebellum—but it also refers to (ii) _____, a specialized bundle of cells that regulates cyclical processes.

A. euphemism	D. an elusive psychological phenomenon
B. cliché	E. a standard literary trope
C. metaphor	F. a real biological feature

4. The author of this biography gives an accurate and (i) _____ account of the subject's life story, but all the carefully assembled detail fails to compensate for the general lack of (ii) _____ in her writing.

A. exhaustive	D. specificity
B. glib	E. veracity
C. selective	F. vivacity

5. Firebaugh and Beck contend that economic development improves the overall well-being of people within developing countries. However, other scholars emphasize the (i) _____ of this view, empirically demonstrating that while economic development does in fact contribute to the well-being of the population of developing countries, the magnitude of development's positive effects on well-being has (ii) _____. In other words, these scholars suggest that (iii) _____ economic development and human well-being is taking place in developing countries.

A. falsity	D. been greatly underestimated	G. a decoupling of
B. arbitrariness	E. not yet been measured	H. an inversion of
C. limitation	F. decreased over time	I. a decline in

6. Applications of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have fared best in contexts in which habitat condition is closely linked to species condition and the cause of habitat degradation is easily identified. The achievements of the ESA in those contexts, however, have (i) _____ that other uses of the act can (ii) _____ that record even where such favorable conditions do not (iii) _____.

A. quelled the conviction	D. mitigate	G. vary
B. presaged the uncertainty	E. duplicate	H. pertain
C. fostered the misconception	F. elucidate	I. diminish

7. Shifting Fortunes take a conventional approach to American union history by simply explaining the reasons behind union growth and decline in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: it is a chronologically and thematically _____ study and nothing more.

- A. complicated
- B. confined
- C. multifarious
- D. onerous
- E. circumscribed
- F. taxing

8. A clever form of diplomacy involves subtly inducing the other party to propose your preference so that your _____ their requests appears as the granting of concession.

- A. accession to
- B. inattention to
- C. subversion of
- D. abnegation of
- E. repudiation of
- F. acquiescence to

9. Scientist reported last month on a sign of relative solar _____; the solar wind, a rush of charged particles continually spewed from the Sun at a million miles an hour, had diminished to its lowest level in 50 years.

- A. quiescence
- B. turbulence
- C. isolation
- D. calm
- E. remoteness
- F. instability

10. The author takes issue with the ideological blinders that have distorted much migration research, especially _____ modernization theorists and others for their untested assumptions of an immobile preindustrial past.

- A. undermining
- B. citing
- C. castigating
- D. chastising
- E. endorsing
- F. commending

section 49 hard

1. In one theory, as people learn things throughout the day, connections between neurons get strengthened, but during sleep then all synapses are weakened, tenuous connections are _____ and only the strongest bonds could remain.

- A. reinforced
- B. reproduced
- C. replaced
- D. stimulated
- E. severed

2. While the writer was best known for her much-ballyhooed _____, her impact reached far beyond memorable quips.

- A. pensiveness
- B. drollness
- C. stoicism
- D. fastidiousness
- E. congeniality

3. Although she admitted that her airport expansion plan had recently collapsed, the governor (i)_____ the significance of the failure, pointing out that competing economic development proposals are now more (ii)_____.

A. minimized	D. tenuous
B. touted	E. complicated
C. acknowledged	F. important

4. The reclusive clergyman may have lived and died in melancholy, but this doesn't seem to have (i)_____ his genius in any way. On the contrary, we find ourselves wondering whether his genius wasn't (ii)_____ in some mysterious way by his mood.

A. influenced	D. served
B. hampered	E. controlled
C. triggered	F. identified

5. The research on otters' environmental requirements is surprisingly (i)_____. One reason for this has to do with the estimation of how much they use different areas. Doing so may be (ii)_____ in some kinds of terrain, such as Shetland where the Eurasian otters are active in daytime and have clear individual markings. There it is possible to identify the individuals over stretches of coast of a few kilometers and to see what kinds of coast they use. However, the field conditions are (iii)_____.

A. straightforward	D. quite problematic	G. routine
B. controversial	E. relatively simple	H. deceptive
C. difficult	F. largely unnecessary	I. exceptional

6. Even the reader acquainted with the outlines of Pushkin's biography will be (i)_____ the (ii)_____ so vividly conveyed in Binyon's biography. Not only was Pushkin's personal correspondence intercepted and his movements (iii)_____, but Tsar Nicholas I's decision to oversee Pushkin's career obliged Pushkin to submit all his manuscripts for inspection.

A. attracted by	D. suffocating lack of creative freedom	G. ignored
B. confused by	E. concern for contemporary society	H. monitored
C. struck by	F. underlying sense of historical change	I. commended

7. While normal floods resulting from usual monsoon rainfall are _____ the growth of crops, recently there has been an increase in the frequency of high-intensity floods that do not have such welcome effects.

- A. conducive to
- B. hindered by
- C. devastating for
- D. deleterious for
- E. essential for
- F. indispensable to

8. The difficulty of reforming electoral politics is not lack of the right tools but the need to put them into the hands of impartial agents: the goal should be to build capacity while _____ partisanship.

- A. expediting
- B. constraining
- C. facilitating
- D. deterring
- E. exacerbating
- F. lamenting

9. That guild of experts has always appraised the economic stimulation plan as bootless, while the advocates of the policy do not take their _____ evaluation for granted.

- A. tendentious
- B. meticulous
- C. detracting
- D. indifferent
- E. ubiquitous
- F. deprecatory

10. In noting that critical and popular opinions about Li's art coincided, Chuang _____ the existence of an exception to her general theory of art criticism, which posits that critics' views do not intersect with those of the general public.

- A. asserted
- B. conceded
- C. acknowledged
- D. doubted
- E. pondered
- F. questioned

section 50 hard

1. One baffling aspect of the novel is its capacity to generate emotional power from a plot that lacks the most elementary _____.: readers must accept not an occasional coincidence, but a continuous stream of them.

- A. synergy
- B. continuity
- C. naivety
- D. premise
- E. credibility

2. Though humanitarian emergencies are frequent features of television news, such exposure seldom _____ the public, which rather seems resigned to a sense of impotency.

- A. paralyzes
- B. demoralizes
- C. assuages
- D. galvanizes
- E. exasperates

3. Partly because of Lee's skill at synthesizing (i)_____ trends drawn from many fields of study, her theories appeared to present, with uncanny aptness, ideas already (ii)_____ in the minds of her contemporaries.

A. superseded	D. discredited
B. irrelevant	E. well established
C. emergent	F. half-formulated

4. Research into butterfly wings could have (i)_____ implications, since knowledge of their optical and thermal properties may be (ii)_____ controlling the behavior of computer chips, which likewise consist of finely structured thin film.

A. ecological	D. tantamount to
B. aesthetic	E. germane to
C. technological	F. advance by

5. Viewing people as "social atoms" that obey rather simple rule (which are not unlike the laws of physics), one may discover certain (i)_____. Take, for example, the way channels emerge when people move in crowds. In the midst of initially (ii)_____ movements, one person begins to follow another—in an effort to avoid collisions—and streams of movement emerge. As more people join in, there is greater pull on others to join the flow, and the particular channels become (iii)_____.

A. apparent contradictions	D. inflexible	G. self-defeating
B. unproductive tendencies	E. straightforward	H. self-aggrandizing
C. lawlike regulations	F. chaotic	I. self-perpetuating

6. In this single volume, Kenny aims to survey for the general reader all of ancient philosophy; understandably, space in such a book is (i)_____, and he is not to be faulted for minor omissions. However, Kenny would have added significantly to his book's value had he more effectively (ii)_____ the influence of ancient philosophy on the subsequent tradition. As it is, newcomers to the subject will have little (iii)_____ the afterlife enjoyed by ancient philosophy in the period 1600-1750.

A. at a premium	D. overlooked	G. sense of
B. hard to fill	E. signaled	H. devotion to
C. taken for granted	F. prevented	I. aversion to

7. The ambassador's critical remarks seemed to be less a product of _____ and more the careless utterances of a fatigued or undisciplined individual.

- A. intensity
- B. optimism
- C. purposefulness
- D. design
- E. confidence
- F. caution

8. In sharp contrast to the novel's scenic realism and precisely characterized figure is its persistent philosophical _____.

- A. naturalism
- B. abstraction
- C. generality
- D. impartiality
- E. sincerity
- F. objectivity

9. Individuals, governments, and companies show ample ability to _____ themselves by setting goals based on current conditions and then blindly following them even when those conditions change drastically.

- A. hamstring
- B. reinvent
- C. promote
- D. revitalize
- E. impair
- F. invigorate

10. The cat known to researchers as M-120—beefy, audacious, and apparently smart enough to spot a free lunch—is perhaps the world's least _____ lynx: the scientists catch him several times a year.

- A. intelligent
- B. evasive
- C. fearless
- D. furtive
- E. elusive
- F. intrepid

