

GRE Practice Paper

GRE Verbal Practice Paper 5

Section 2 Verbal Reasoning 25 Questions

Directions for questions 1 through 5:

Each of the following questions includes a sentence with a blank indicating that something has been omitted. Following the sentence will be a list of six words or phrases, each of which could be used to complete the sentence. Select the two answer choices that, when substituted for the blank, fit the context and produce the two sentences most nearly alike in meaning.

1. In the long run, high-technology communications cannot _____ more traditional face-to-face family togetherness, in Ms. Aspinall's view.

- A ameliorate
- B compromise
- C supersede
- D approximate
- E enervate
- F supplant

2. Even in this business, where _____ is part of everyday life, a talent for lying is not something usually found on one's resume.

- A aspiration
- B mendacity
- C prevarication
- D insensitivity

- E baseness
- F avarice

3. A restaurant's menu is generally reflected in its decor; however, despite this restaurant's _____ appearance it is pedestrian in the menu it offers.

- A elegant
- B tawdry
- C modern
- D traditional
- E conventional
- F chic

4. International financial issues are typically _____ by the United States media because they are too technical to make snappy headlines and too inaccessible to people who lack a background in economics.

- A neglected
- B slighted
- C overrated
- D hidden
- E criticized
- F repudiated

5. While in many ways their personalities could not have been more different—she was ebullient where he was glum, relaxed where he was awkward, garrulous where he was _____— they were surprisingly well suited.

- A solicitous
- B munificent
- C irresolute
- D laconic

- E fastidious
- F taciturn

Questions 6 through 8 are based on the following reading passage.

Music critics have consistently defined James P. Johnson as a great early jazz pianist, originator of the 1920s Harlem “stride” style, and an important blues and jazz composer. In addition, however, Johnson was an innovator in classical music, composing 5 symphonic music that incorporated American, and especially African American, traditions.

Such a blend of musical elements was not entirely new: by 1924 both Milhaud and Gershwin had composed classical works that incorporated elements of jazz. Johnson, a serious musician 10 more experienced than most classical composers with jazz, blues, spirituals, and popular music, was particularly suited to expand Milhaud’s and Gershwin’s experiments. In 1927 he completed his first large-scale work, the blues- and jazz-inspired Yamekraw, which included borrowings from spirituals and Johnson’s own 15 popular songs. Yamekraw, premiered successfully in Carnegie Hall, was a major achievement for Johnson, becoming his most frequently performed extended work. It demonstrated vividly the possibility of assimilating contemporary popular music into the symphonic tradition.

6. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The passage states that Johnson composed all of the following

EXCEPT

- A jazz works
- B popular songs
- C symphonic music
- D spirituals
- E blues pieces

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

The author suggests which of the following about most classical composers of the early 1920s?

A They were strongly influenced by the musical experiments of Milhaud and Gershwin.

B They had little working familiarity with such forms of American music as jazz, blues, and popular songs.

C They made few attempts to introduce innovations into the classical symphonic tradition.

8. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The author suggests that most critics have

A underrated the popularity of Yamekraw

B undervalued Johnson's musical abilities

C had little interest in Johnson's influence on jazz

D had little regard for classical works that incorporate popular music

E neglected Johnson's contribution to classical symphonic music

Questions 9 and 10 are based on the following reading passage.

(A word is boldfaced and underlined for reference in answering question 10.)

Scholarship on political newspapers and their editors is dominated by the view that as the United States grew, the increasing influence of the press led, ultimately, to the neutral reporting from which we benefit today. Pasley considers this view oversimplified, 5 because neutrality was not a goal of early national newspaper editing, even when editors disingenuously stated that they aimed to tell all sides of a story. Rather, the intensely partisan ideologies

represented in newspapers of the early republic led to a clear demarcation between traditional and republican values. The editors responsible for the papers' content—especially those with republican agendas—began to see themselves as central figures in the development of political consciousness in the United States.

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

The passage suggests that Pasley would agree with which of the following statements about the political role of newspapers?

A Newspapers today are in many cases much less neutral in their political reporting than is commonly held by scholars.

B Newspapers in the early United States normally declared quite openly their refusal to tell all sides of most political stories.

C The editorial policies of some early United States newspapers became a counterweight to proponents of traditional values.

10. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The word “disingenuously” appears underlined and in boldface in line 6 of the passage. In the context in which it appears, “disingenuously” most nearly means

- A insincerely
- B guilelessly
- C obliquely
- D resolutely
- E pertinaciously

Directions for questions 11 and 12:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with two

or three blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

11. The (i)_____ nature of classical tragedy in Athens belies the modern image of tragedy: in the modern view tragedy is austere and stripped down, its representations of ideological and emotional conflicts so superbly compressed that there's nothing (ii)_____ for time to erode.

Blank (i)

- A unadorned
- B harmonious
- C multifaceted

Blank (ii)

- D inalienable
- E exigent
- F extraneous

12. Murray, whose show of recent paintings and drawings is her best in many years, has been eminent hereabouts for a quarter century, although often regarded with (i)_____, but the most (ii)_____ of these paintings (iii)_____ all doubts.

Blank (i)

- A partiality
- B credulity
- C ambivalence

Blank (ii)

- D problematic
- E successful
- F disparaged

Blank (iii)

- G exculpate
- H assuage
- I whet

Directions for questions 13 and 14:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with a blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Select the entry that best completes the text.

13. Far from viewing Jefferson as a skeptical but enlightened intellectual, historians of the 1960s portrayed him as _____ thinker, eager to fill the young with his political orthodoxy while

censoring ideas he did not like.

- A an adventurous
- B a doctrinaire
- C an eclectic
- D a judicious
- E a cynical

14. Dramatic literature often _____ the history of a culture in that it takes as its subject matter the important events that have shaped and guided the culture.

- A confounds
- B repudiates
- C recapitulates
- D anticipates
- E polarizes

Questions 15 through 17 are based on the following reading passage.

(A sentence is boldfaced and underlined for reference in answering question 16.)

In *Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry does not reject integration or the economic and moral promise of the American dream; rather, she remains loyal to this dream while looking, realistically, at its incomplete realization. Once we recognize this dual vision, we can accept the play's ironic nuances as deliberate social commentaries by Hansberry rather than as the "unintentional" irony that Bigsby attributes to the work. **Indeed, a curiously persistent refusal to credit Hansberry with a capacity for intentional irony has led some critics to interpret the play's 10 thematic conflicts as mere confusion, contradiction, or eclecticism.** Isaacs, for example, cannot easily reconcile Hansberry's intense concern for her race with her ideal of human reconciliation. But the play's complex view of Black self-esteem

and human solidarity as compatible is no more “contradictory” than Du Bois’s famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon’s emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

15. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The author’s primary purpose in the passage is to

A explain some critics’ refusal to consider *Raisin in the Sun* a deliberately ironic play

B suggest that ironic nuances ally *Raisin in the Sun* with Du Bois’s and Fanon’s writings

C analyze the fundamental dramatic conflicts in *Raisin in the Sun*

D emphasize the inclusion of contradictory elements in *Raisin in the Sun*

E affirm the thematic coherence underlying *Raisin in the Sun*

16. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The author of the passage would probably consider which of the following judgments to be most similar to the reasoning of the critics described in the underlined and boldfaced sentence (lines 7-11) ?

A The world is certainly flat; therefore, the person proposing to sail around it is unquestionably foolhardy.

B Radioactivity cannot be directly perceived; therefore, a scientist could not possibly control it in a laboratory.

C The painter of this picture could not intend it to be funny; therefore, its humor must result from a lack of skill.

D Traditional social mores are beneficial to culture; therefore, anyone who deviates from them acts destructively.

E Filmmakers who produce documentaries deal exclusively with facts; therefore, a filmmaker who reinterprets

particular events is misleading us.

17. The five sentences in the passage are repeated below, in their original order, with each one assigned a letter. Select and indicate a sentence in the passage in which the author provides examples that reinforce an argument against a critical response cited earlier in the passage.

A In *Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry does not reject integration or the economic and moral promise of the American dream; rather, she remains loyal to this dream while looking, realistically, at its incomplete realization.

B Once we recognize this dual vision, we can accept the play's ironic nuances as deliberate social commentaries by Hansberry rather than as the "unintentional" irony that Bigsby attributes to the work.

C Indeed, a curiously persistent refusal to credit Hansberry with a capacity for intentional irony has led some critics to interpret the play's thematic conflicts as mere confusion, contradiction, or eclecticism.

D Isaacs, for example, cannot easily reconcile Hansberry's intense concern for her race with her ideal of human reconciliation.

E But the play's complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more "contradictory" than Du Bois's famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon's emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

Question 18 is based on the following text.

As an example of the devastation wrought on music publishers by the photocopier, one executive noted that for a recent choral festival with 1,200 singers, the festival's organizing committee purchased only 12 copies of the music published by her company that was

5 performed as part of the festival.

18. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the support the example lends to the executive's contention that music publishers have been devastated by the photocopier?

A Only a third of the 1,200 singers were involved in performing the music published by the executive's company.

B Half of the singers at the festival had already heard the music they were to perform before they began to practice for the festival.

C Because of shortages in funding, the organizing committee of the choral festival required singers to purchase their own copies of the music performed at the festival.

D Each copy of music that was performed at the festival was shared by two singers.

E As a result of publicity generated by its performance at the festival, the type of music performed at the festival became more widely known.

Directions for questions 19 through 21:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with two or three blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

19. New technologies often begin by (i) _____ what has gone before, and they change the world later. Think how long it took power-using companies to recognize that with electricity they did not need to cluster their machinery around the power source, as in the days of steam. Instead, power could be (ii) _____

their processes. In that sense, many of today's computer networks are still in the steam age. Their full potential remains unrealized.

Blank (i)

- A uprooting
- B dismissing
- C mimicking

Blank (ii)

- D transmitted to
- E consolidated around
- F incorporated into

20. There has been much hand-wringing about how unprepared American students are for college. Graff reverses this perspective, suggesting that colleges are unprepared for students. In his analysis, the university culture is largely (i)_____ entering students because academic culture fails to make connections to the kinds of arguments and cultural references that students grasp. Understandably, many students view academic life as (ii)_____ ritual.

Blank (i)

- A primed for
- B opaque to
- C essential for

Blank (ii)

- D an arcane
- E a laudable
- F a painstaking

21. Of course anyone who has ever perused an unmodernized text of Captain Clark's journals knows that the Captain was one of the most (i)_____ spellers ever to write in English, but despite this (ii)_____ orthographical rules, Clark is never unclear.

Blank (i)

- A indefatigable
- B fastidious
- C defiant

Blank (ii)

- D disregard for
- E partiality toward
- F unpretentiousness about

Question 22 is based on the following reading passage.

For the past two years at FasCorp, there has been a policy to

advertise any job opening to current employees and to give no job to an applicant from outside the company if a FasCorp employee applies who is qualified for the job. This policy has been strictly followed, yet even though numerous employees of FasCorp have been qualified for any given entry-level position, some entry-level jobs have been filled with people from outside the company.

22. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

If the information provided is true, which of the following must on the basis of it also be true about FasCorp during the past two years?

- A There have been some open jobs for which no qualified FasCorp employee applied.
- B Some entry-level job openings have not been advertised to FasCorp employees.
- C The total number of employees has increased.
- D FasCorp has hired some people for jobs for which they were not qualified.
- E All the job openings have been for entry-level jobs.

Questions 23 through 25 are based on the following reading passage.

A tall tree can transport a hundred gallons of water a day from its roots deep underground to the treetop. Is this movement propelled by pulling the water from above or pushing it from below? The pull mechanism has long been favored by most scientists. First proposed in the late 1800s, the theory relies on a property of water not commonly associated with fluids: its tensile strength. Instead of making a clean break, water evaporating from treetops tugs on the remaining water molecules, with that tug extending from molecule to molecule all the way down to the roots. The tree itself does not actually push or pull; all the energy for lifting water comes from the sun's evaporative power.

23. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The passage is primarily concerned with

A refuting a hypothesis advanced by scientists

B discussing the importance of a phenomenon

C presenting a possible explanation of a phenomenon

D contrasting two schools of thought

E discussing the origins of a theory

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

Which of the following statements is supported by the passage?

A The pull theory is not universally accepted by scientists.

B The pull theory depends on one of water's physical properties.

C The pull theory originated earlier than did the push theory.

25. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The passage provides information on each of the following

EXCEPT

A when the pull theory originated

B the amount of water a tall tree can transport

C the significance of water's tensile strength in the pull theory

D the role of the sun in the pull theory

E the mechanism underlying water's tensile strength