

## GRE practice paper

### Gre verbal

#### Text completion

##### Question 1

Although his latest project was relatively \_\_\_\_\_—little more than a few basic plot points scribbled on a napkin—the veteran screenwriter easily sold the story to a major Hollywood studio.

undeveloped
polished
convoluted
prosaic
tortuous

##### Question 2

Despite being located in hot and sunny California, San Francisco is famous for its \_\_\_\_\_ weather, engendered by the consequence of two different meteorological systems in the Bay Area.

stimulating
adverse
balmy
appealing
duplicitous

##### Question 3

Possessing few natural resources upon its newly-granted independence in 1863, Singapore remained economically \_\_\_\_\_ until an influx of industrialization and foreign investment took hold there.

powerful
prosperous
solvent
fortuitous
dubious

##### Question 4

Wealth and technology wrought by industrialization gave nations in the northern hemisphere strategic \_\_\_\_ (i) \_\_\_\_\_. This included sophisticated weaponry that could easily overpower the more \_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ arms held by the countries of the southern hemisphere.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
adoration	intricate
advantage	perilous
consequence	rudimentary

Question 5

Even though legislators claimed the Contagious Diseases Acts strengthened the nation, social purists argued the Acts \_\_\_\_\_ the nation's moral growth by encouraging licentious behavior.

advanced
ameliorated
hampered
supplanted
enhanced

Question 6

The new lecture hall's \_\_\_\_\_ design reflected the architect's minimalist influences.

posh
intricate
unadorned
refulgent
grandiose

Question 7

Bentham provided the conceptual model for modern prisons, though not the actual structural model. In Bentham's \_\_\_\_ (i) \_\_\_\_\_, a central watchtower provided a \_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ view of all subjects under surveillance, theoretically allowing the guard to observe all of their actions; the tower, however, was structured in such a way that the subjects being observed could not see the guard. This meant that the prisoners were forced to assume that they were being \_\_\_\_ (iii) \_\_\_\_\_, even when the guard was on-duty, allowing prison administrators to be economical in their employment of guards.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
schematic	constricted	castigated
epitome	panoramic	scrutinized
quintessence	salubrious	exonerated

Question 8

The grave accusations made by the plaintiff's were almost entirely \_\_\_\_\_(i)\_\_\_\_\_ the testimony of two witnesses. Therefore, when the court \_\_\_\_\_(ii)\_\_\_\_\_ the credentials of those witnesses, the plaintiff's case disintegrated, and the relevant claims were shown to be \_\_\_\_\_(iii)\_\_\_\_\_.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
subservient to	vindicated	facetious
isolated from	repudiated	unerring
dependent on	debated	specious

Question 9

Modern tennis fans have come to realize that, although, quantum technological leaps in racquet technology have led to \_\_\_\_\_ increases in the speed and power with which players can hit the ball, this has not necessarily led to a more entertaining game.

innocuous
halcyon
malleable
commensurate
tractable

Question 10

Many Major League Baseball relief pitchers choose an electrifying theme song to play as they take the mound; the song \_\_\_\_\_ their fans and instills fear in their opponents.

eviscerates
enervates
assuages
innervates
pervades

Question 11

Emmet Ray, a fictional jazz guitarist in Woody Allen's *Blues for Sister Sarah*, is a paradoxical character; while he displays sophisticated musical artistry, his personality is typically \_\_\_\_\_.

petulant
elegant
audacious
maladroit
multi-faceted

Question 12

The editorial, though intended to \_\_\_\_ (i) \_\_\_\_ the current administration, inadvertently \_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_ several claims made against the regime suggested as a preferable alternative, effectively \_\_\_\_ (iii) \_\_\_\_ any plans for a change in leadership.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
impugn	attenuated	politicizing
bolster	substantiated	metamorphosing
venerate	benighted	castrating

Question 13

Humans have a natural affinity for Vervet monkeys; in both their habits and their personalities, they remind us of the essential humanity of non-human creatures. Vervet monkeys, like most humans, are \_\_\_\_ (i) \_\_\_\_, conducting most of their activities during the day. Their \_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_ behavior and desire for company shows us that humans are not the only species that values \_\_\_\_ (iii) \_\_\_\_.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
quotidian	collaborative	litheness
circadian	gregarious	camaraderie
diurnal	egregious	fatuity

Question 14

A mathematician should not automatically reject theorems that might at first seem witless or juvenile; advanced degrees are not a license for \_\_\_\_ (i) \_\_\_\_, nor do they \_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_ arrogance or egotism.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
haughtiness	sanction
puerility	dispel
substantiation	cultivate

Question 15 Bettelheim's \_\_\_\_ (i) \_\_\_\_ of "Hansel and Gretel" is thorough and well-researched, but ultimately not compelling due

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
incantation	parochial
exegesis	sweeping
relish	jaundiced

### Reading comprehension

Questions 1-2 refer to the following passage.

Little is known about the elusive section of the earth's atmosphere known as the mesosphere. Located between the stratosphere (the maximum altitude that airplanes can achieve) and the thermosphere (the minimum altitude of spacecraft), the mesosphere is poorly understood and little explored. The most significant feature of the mesosphere is the various tides and waves that propagate up from the troposphere and stratosphere. The dissipation of these waves is largely responsible for propelling the mesosphere around the globe. These wave patterns are further affected when gas particles in the mesosphere collide with meteoroids, producing spectacular explosions, which usually generate enough heat to consume the meteor before it can fall to earth. The conflagration leaves behind traces of iron and other metals and fuels the atmospheric tides radiating outward from the mesosphere.

#### Question 1

The author primarily describes the mesosphere as

- turbulent
- opaque
- unfamiliar
- radiant
- anarchic

Question 2

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

The passage suggests that the mesosphere is influenced by

- collisions with extraterrestrial debris
- vibrations from the troposphere
- oceanic tides

Questions 3-4 refer to the following passage

Television programming is big business, with sales of interstitial advertising reaching billions of dollars annually. Advertising rates are determined by the viewership of the program in question, which has traditionally been determined by ACNielsen, part of The Nielsen Company. Nielsen wields an immoderate amount of industry clout considering its questionable methods of statistics gathering.

(10) The Nielsen Company relies on selected households to catalog their television watching habits in "diaries." The ratings are then reported as a percentage that indicates the number of viewers watching a television program at a given

(15) time. The company has come under criticism for choosing residences that underreport daytime and late-night television viewing and for over-representing minorities in sample populations. Critics also point to the nonviable practice of

(20) measuring how many individuals are watching a given television set and of gauging how attentive the audience is to a program or its advertising.

Question 3

It can be inferred from the passage that the author considers the Nielsen Company's techniques

- intentionally biased
- dubious
- worthless
- unscrupulous
- overly boastful

Question 4

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

Which of the following does the passage indicate is true of the household members who report their viewing habits?

- Because ratings are reported as a percentage, each household is counted only as one person.
- They are not always accurate when it comes to recording their viewing habits.
- The indirect influence they exert on advertising costs may not be based on all relevant factors.

Questions 5-8 refer to the following passage

Although multi-organ transplants have become more common, scientists and surgeons continue to face the ineluctable obstacle of time. Current donor organ preservation times hover around  
*Line*  
*(5)* five to six hours. Because of the complicated tissue-matching process, oftentimes organs are unable to reach their beneficiaries, wasting valuable, viable organs. However, scientists are hopeful that a certain substance, called the  
*(10)* Hibernation Induction Trigger (HIT), will extend the life of a potential transplant organ.

HIT is an opiate-like substance found in the blood of hibernating animals. Previous experiments have shown that opioids act as an  
*(15)* autoperfusion block, preventing blood from flowing through the lymphatic system to organs, a phenomenon known as ischemia. In a preliminary experiment, an infusion of plasma with the Delta opioid delayed hemorrhaging in certain laboratory animals. When this arresting of activity was  
*(20)* applied to the transplantation of organs, physicians reported preservation times up to 15 hours, a more than two-fold increase over standard conservation.

*(25)* Scientists have extrapolated from these findings, further identifying the opioid DADLE as integral to triggering the hibernation process. Infusing HIT-molecule-containing plasma from hibernating woodchucks into canine lungs

- (30) increased preservation times more than three-fold from previous findings. This experiment suggests that, should a potential donor organ be infused with these trigger molecules before the organ is harvested, the organ would
- (35) remain transplantable for up to 45 hours, greatly increasing the chance for doctors to find a suitable recipient.

- Though these results are exciting, they do nothing to increase survival rates from an organ
- (40) transplant operation, which currently hover at 60 percent over four years, because patients are still susceptible to infection and rejection. Scientists are a long way from declaring HIT-molecules a safe and consistent method of
- (45) organ preservation. Still, other areas of science have taken an interest in this research. NASA, for example, is considering the implications of human hibernation for deep space travel.

#### Question 5

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- Ischemia is essential to the organ transplantation process.
- The same process by which HIT induces hibernation might be applicable to donor organs.
- The biggest obstacle facing physicians in the science of organ transplantation is the difficulty of matching suitable donors and recipients.
- Additional time could be saved by computerizing the tissue-matching process.
- HIT could also be administered to patients awaiting an organ transplant, thereby lengthening the amount of time they are eligible for surgery.

#### Question 6

Given the information in the passage about blocking auto perfusion, which of the following could also be true?

- DADLE and HIT must be present in an organ at the same time in order for auto perfusion to be prevented for any length of time.
- If scientists could circumvent the passage of blood through the lymphatic system, organs would cease to deteriorate.
- Scientists are close to developing a method to induce production of HIT in a non-hibernating animal.
- Administering HIT after transplantation is likely to lower the current rates of infection and organ rejection.
- Isolating and infusing opioids may be the key to retarding the progression of decay in transplant organs.



Question 7

The author refers to the experiment with the woodchuck in order to

- illustrate successful preliminary experiments
- suggest genetic similarity between species
- warn that the findings are preliminary at best
- explain why other scientists may be interested in the findings
- suggest the feasibility of inter-species transplant

Question 8

Select the sentence from the passage which suggests how the use of isolated HIT molecules, if they were to be approved for general use, would be limited.

**Sentence equivalence**

Question 1

Despite having steeled herself for the worst, the new band director was disheartened to hear the \_\_\_\_\_ sounds emanating from the freshman orchestra.

- A arduous
- B euphonious
- C cacophonous
- D ample
- E discordant
- F harmonious

Question 2

Bede, the author of A History of the English Church and People, was so widely \_\_\_\_\_ that he has been almost universally known as “The Venerable Bede” since the ninth century.

- A defamed
- B consoled
- C revered
- D esteemed
- E mitigated
- F reviled

Question 3

In addition to the detailed written regulations regarding play, a novice golfer must also learn the \_\_\_\_\_, but nonetheless important, rules of etiquette.

- A implicit
- B laconic
- C express
- D tacit
- E reclusive
- F manifest

Question 4

Based on the desire to restrict further water pollution, the Clean Water Act of 1972 began under \_\_\_\_\_ terms, but opponents soon assailed the bill in the court system and discouraged those who had fought for its ratification.

- A bleak
- B auspicious
- C unfavorable
- D suspicious
- E promising
- F ineffectual

Question 5 Jane Austen's novel, Emma, paints a comedy of errors that results when its heroine tries her hand at creating love matches, an effort which she attributes to her own \_\_\_\_\_ instead of a selfish need to meddle.

- A gaiety
- B benevolence
- C elegance
- D viscosity
- E refinement
- F magnanimity

Question 6

While interviewing for a job as a computer consultant, Robert consciously provided a \_\_\_\_\_ of references, knowing full well that he had few former employers who would be laudatory about his past projects.

- A multitude
- B array
- C myriad
- D potpourri
- E paucity
- F dearth

Question 7

While most of the tasks undertaken by the interns were undemanding, a fact that led to the good of applicants for the positions each year, there was one \_\_\_\_\_ duty: cleaning out the garbage bins in the laboratory.

- A unambiguous
- B facile
- C arduous
- D onerous
- E tenebrous
- F lucid

Question 8

In an attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ voters to support her, the incumbent politician beguilingly greeted a room full of constituents and pledged to lower taxes—even though she had only ever done the opposite while in office.

- A alienate
- B a base
- C inveigle
- D eviscerate
- E estrange
- F entice

Question 9

After a series of storms, the once arid landscape became \_\_\_\_\_ for the first time in many months.

- A innocuous
- B barren
- C verdant
- D desolate
- E bountiful
- F limpid

Question 10

Although he received many visitors, the \_\_\_\_\_ old man shooed them away after only a few minutes.

- A misanthropic
- B curmudgeonly
- C sarcastic
- D chauvinistic
- E garrulous
- F affable

Question 11

Eileen used to be a picky eater, but since a new complex of fine dining and ethnic restaurants opened in her neighborhood, she has become quite \_\_\_\_\_.

- A corpulent
- B finicky
- C epicurean
- D ponderous
- E gourmandizing
- F persnickety

Question 12

The SWAT team entered the dark building on high alert, their guns drawn and their night vision goggles on; each agent's eyes and ears were attuned to the slightest disturbance in the \_\_\_\_\_ recesses of the rooms.

- A empty
- B cacophonous
- C stygian
- D gloomy
- E functional
- F useful

Question 13

Under no delusions about his actual >financial situation, the man's desire to present a frugal picture to his friends and avoid being labeled \_\_\_\_\_ caused him to go to such an extreme that he ended up being called a Scrooge.

- A
- B a spendthrift
- C a prodigal
- D a miser
- E a hedonist
- F a skinflint
- G an epicure

Question 14

The \_\_\_\_\_ pirate plundered every trade ship that came near his own ship; it was almost as if he could never loot or pillage enough to satisfy his craving for gold and jewels.

- A raffish
- B ebullient
- C voracious
- D showy
- E rapacious
- F effusive

Question 15

The homicide detectives didn't truly understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the criminal until they found the secret hideout where he stored his instruments of torture and carried out his heinous acts.

- A pulchritude
- B enormity
- C ingenuity
- D iniquity
- E canniness
- F perfidy

Question 16

While blood and human sacri>ces performed to mollify the gods were ubiquitous in ancient cultures, the Mayans' propensity for sacrificing prisoners from neighboring tribes \_\_\_\_\_ all the other tribes.

- A imprisoned

- B engendered
- C disquieted
- D expatiate
- E condoned
- F affronted

Question 17

In contrast to the stark facades of their surviving ruins, medieval castles were depicted in contemporary tapestries as \_\_\_\_\_ with colorful banners and pennants.

- A ablated
- B attenuated
- C bedizened
- D caparisoned
- E extirpated
- F fomented

Question 18

The young minister was startled to learn that his parishioners considered him \_\_\_\_\_; he had been unaware that his message was being undermined by his sanctimonious and self-righteous tone.

- A ingenuous
- B moralistic
- C punctilious
- D salacious
- E sententious
- F unaffected

Question 19

Many senior faculty members who were accustomed to being addressed in a more collegial and egalitarian manner were alienated by the \_\_\_\_\_ tone of the new department chair's introductory remarks.

- A ignominious
- B imperious
- C peremptory
- D propitious
- E sanguine
- F saturnine

Question 20

Meant to demonstrate an air of sophistication and worldliness, the comments that Hannah made upon exiting the building served only to emphasize her \_\_\_\_\_ mentality and reinforce Mr. Hassan's conviction that her dismissal was justified because she was not yet mature enough for the corporate world.

- A adroit

- B venal
- C puerile
- D callow
- E indolent
- F audacious

### Quantitative reasoning

Question 1

$$3 \div \frac{6}{7} =$$

- $\frac{36}{7}$
- $\frac{2}{7}$
- $2\frac{4}{7}$
- 3
- $3\frac{1}{2}$

Question 2

$$\frac{\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{2}} =$$

- 1
- $-\frac{1}{2}$
- $-\frac{3}{7}$
- $\frac{6}{5}$
- 2

Question 3

- Quantity A is greater.
- Quantity B is greater.
- The two quantities are equal.
- The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Question 4 A deposit at a local bank earns between 2 percent and 5 percent simple interest in a year. If Shirley makes an initial deposit of \$800 at the bank, which of the following could be the amount of money in her account at the end of one year?

- \$814
- \$820
- \$842
- \$848
- \$860

Question 5

Quantity A Quantity B The change in price of a pair of shoes marked down by 50% The change in price of a pair of boots marked down by 30%

- Quantity A is greater.
- Quantity B is greater.
- The two quantities are equal.
- The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Question 6

What is the value of  $\sqrt{\sqrt{64}}$ ?

$2\sqrt{2}$

4

$4\sqrt{2}$

16

32

Question 7

$\sqrt{81+9} =$

9

10

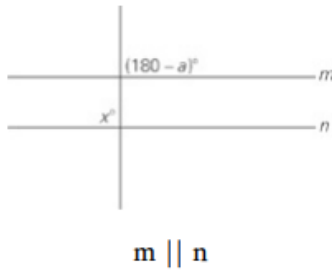
$3\sqrt{10}$

12

30

Question 8





Quantity A

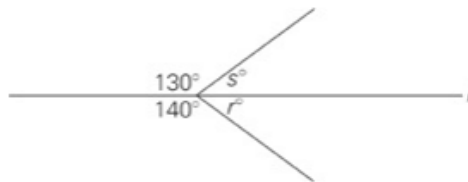
a

Quantity B

90

- Quantity A is greater.
- Quantity B is greater.
- The two quantities are equal.
- The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Question 9



Quantity A

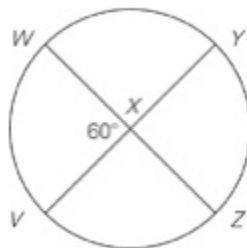
r

Quantity B

s

- Quantity A is greater.
- Quantity B is greater.
- The two quantities are equal.
- The relationship cannot be determined from the information given

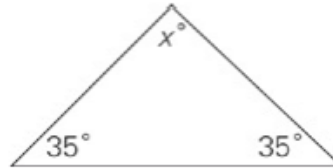
Question 10



If X is the center of the circle above, then what is the sum of the measures of  $\angle WXY$  and  $\angle VXZ$ ?

- 60°
- 120°
- 220°
- 240°

Question 11



Quantity A

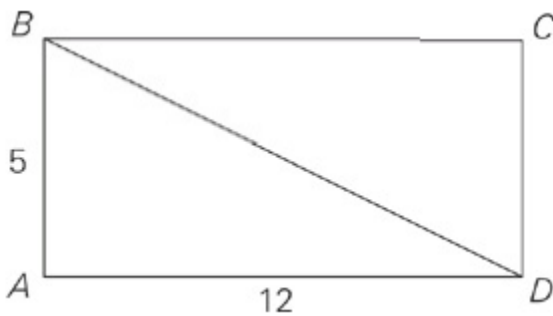
x

Quantity B

70

- Quantity A is greater.
- Quantity B is greater.
- The two quantities are equal.
- The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Question 12

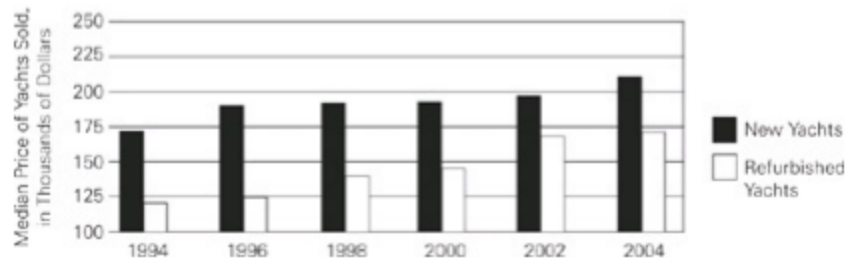
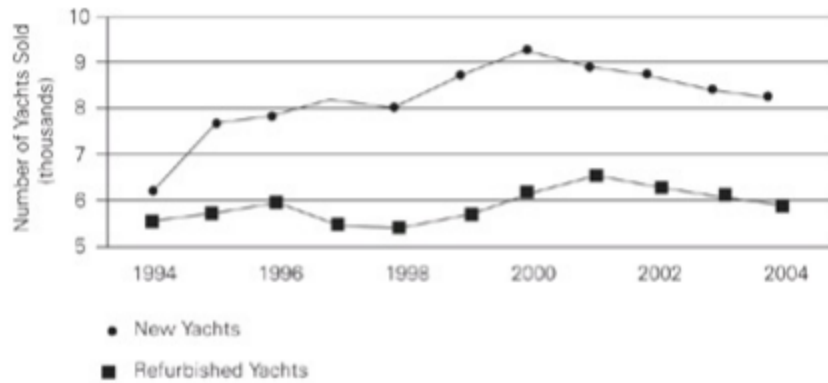


In the figure above, if ABCD is a rectangle, then what is the perimeter of  $\triangle BCD$ ?

- 30
- 32
- 34
- 40
- 44

Question 13-15 refer to the following data

NEW AND REFURBISHED YACHT SALES OF COMPANY J, 1994 TO 2004 AND MEDIAN SALE PRICE FOR SELECTED YEARS



Question 13

According to the graph, which of the following could be the number of refurbished yachts sold in 1996?

- 7,750
- 5,900
- 5,590
- 5,400
- 5,390

Question 14

In which of the following years did Company J sell more refurbished yachts than in the previous year, but fewer new yachts than in the previous year?

- 1995
- 1997
- 1999
- 2001
- 2003

Question 15

In the year when the median price of new yachts sold by Company J was closest to the median price of refurbished yachts sold by Company J, how many thousand refurbished yachts did the company sell?

- 6.3
- 6.7
- 7.9
- 8.3
- 8.7

Question 16

$$7a + 8 = 8a - 24$$

Quantity A                      Quantity B  
a                                      24

- Quantity A is greater.
- Quantity B is greater.
- The two quantities are equal.
- The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Question 17

What is the greatest integer that does NOT satisfy  $3(x - 9) < 5x - 2(1 - 3x)$  ?

- 4
- 3
- 0
- 3
- 4

Question 18

If  $y = 4$  is a solution of the equation  $y^2 + ay + 8 = 36$ , then what is the value of  $a$  ?

- 7
- 4
- 3
- 3
- 7

Question 19

If  $\frac{x^2 - 4x + 4}{x^2 + x - 6} = \frac{6x - 12}{x^2 + 6x + 9}$ , then  $x =$

Question 20

If  $y = x^2 - 32x + 256$ , then what is the least possible value of  $y$  ?

- 256
- 32

- 16
- 8
- 0