

GRE Verbal Practice Paper 19

SET 1

1. The prize competition was _____ as a showcase for new technology, but instead the competition was marred by disqualifications and disputes.

A. disappointing

B. conceived

C. touted

D. heralded

E. promising

F. required

2. The new institute provides intensive postgraduate teaching to a wide range of students, in the hope that these students will use their knowledge to boost the country's _____ economy.

A. languishing

B. emerging

C. booming

D. domestic

E. bankrupt

F. flagging

3. Like other metaphors, the "book of Nature" has two facets: it is _____ but if taken literally, it may mislead.

A. heuristic

B. perceptive

C. poetic

D. insightful

E. prosaic

F. iconoclastic

4. The increasing interactivity emerging in the latest computer systems means that the traditional view of the computer as a _____ of information now unduly limiting.

A. gleaner

B. transformer

C. processor

D. producer

E. repository

F. cache

5. Turing's life exerts a powerful and _____ effect on writers — the combination of the highly intellectual and the personally dramatic is hard to resist.

A. abiding

B. pervasive

C. perennial

D. irresistible

E. unmitigated

F. multifaceted

6. As a result of his regimented upbringing, that left him unable to see the nuances of complex situations, he was often accused of being _____ .

A. indecisive

B. tyrannical

C. obtuse

D. boorish

E. xenophobic

F. imperceptive

7. It is paradoxical that String Theory inspires such widespread respect when it is so _____ that few could ever hope to master its claims.

A. intractable

B. confusing

C. elevated

D. arcane

E. obscure

F. rigorous

8. Those with a reputation for _____ behavior seldom inspire respect: unwavering adherence to a viewpoint is more admired than flexibility.

A. capricious

B. bombastic

C. dogmatic

D. fickle

E. honorable

F. stalwart

9. The courtiers of the time had to be _____ in order to survive in an atmosphere where the least sign of rebellion could lead to banishment or worse.

A. taciturn

B. fawning

C. docile

D. self-serving

E. upright

F. servile

10. Forgiveness was fine in theory, but she had trouble in accepting a religion that would allow _____ evil-doers access to heaven.

A. repentant

B. contrite

C. blatant

D. venial

E. pardoned

F. recalcitrant

SET 2

1. The Countess dressed with a (an) _____ elegance which seemed to proclaim to the world just how distinguished she was.

A. studied

B. pronounced

C. ingenuous

D. understated

E. mannered

F. rococo

2. It is a waste of time to ____ someone so dimwitted; he is too dull to recognize your barbs.

A. disparage

B. ridicule

C. lampoon

D. laud

E. enlighten

F. train

3. The teacher was so abstracted that she gave a ____ evaluation of what was really an interesting solution to the problem she had set.

A. philosophical

B. cursory

C. detailed

D. considered

E. perfunctory

F. tangential

4. Punishment for transgressions of the law ceases to have a deterrent effect if the punishment is frequently ____ .

A. arbitrary

B. changed

C. waived

D. lenient

E. commuted

F. applied

5. Not only love affects the eye of the beholder; other emotions also _____ the interpretation of the events that we witness.

A. cloud

B. trigger

C. devalue

D. color

E. objectify

F. impact

6. The human mind can often reject the most _____ data in favor of something that, though valueless, at least sounds familiar.

A. anomalous

B. inconsequential

C. peripheral

D. pertinent

E. germane

F. visible

7. ____ behavior never has the effect its practitioners hope for; the attempt to hide only draws attention to what is hidden.

A. Misogynistic

B. Puritanical

C. Covert

D. Miserly

E. Prudish

F. Camouflaging

8. He completed the work with unusual ____ ; his need to get out of the office overcame his habitual torpor.

A. dispatch

B. grace

C. effectiveness

D. slovenliness

E. carelessness

F. celerity

9. When Smithers took over as chairperson, her colleagues were looking forward to a less confrontational time on the board of governors, since they reasoned that no one else was likely to be as ____ as her predecessor.

A. mordant

B. aggressive

C. flexible

D. bellicose

E. complaisant

F. jaundiced

10. When faced with an urgent problem for which there is no immediately obvious solution, we tend to welcome any suggestion, however _____, that might throw light on the dilemma.

A. unusual

B. hackneyed

C. tentative

D. outrageous

E. illuminating

F. flimsy

SET 3

1. Mannering's personal diary, a record of _____ preoccupations and domestic details, belies the depth of thought for which he was renowned in the academic world.

A. philosophical

B. mundane

C. petty

D. weighty

E. erudite

F. untoward

2. Animal welfare charities have found that extensive advertising, especially over the Christmas period, can actually drive down the volume of donations as people who view images of maltreated pets more than a few times rapidly become _____.

A. inured

- B. miserly
- C. disgusted
- D. hardened
- E. bored
- F. overwrought

3. The study's _____ conclusion is that during the first half of the 20th Century improved standards of personal hygiene reduced the risk of an individual contracting poliomyelitis, yet tended to make the disease more lethal to communities.

- A. exciting
- B. paradoxical
- C. unwarranted
- D. long-awaited
- E. anomalous
- F. interim

4. The devotion to the syllabus and testing regime has become so extreme that most school students close their minds to anything _____ to the needs of the examination.

- A. related
- B. catering
- C. extraneous
- D. similar
- E. helpful
- F. peripheral

5. The ____ tone of the biography is entirely unexpected since both the biographer in her previous works and her subject in all that he has written have valued levity over solemnity.

A. lugubrious

B. jaunty

C. jocose

D. frivolous

E. ironic

F. melancholy

6. After hours of acrimonious arguments the negotiations reached a(n) _____ ; neither side was willing to compromise.

A. solution

B. impasse

C. conclusion

D. end

E. deadlock

F. resolution

7. This new staging of King Lear is not a production in which every aspect falls neatly into place throughout; however, the drama does ____ at certain points to give the audience memorable and thought-provoking moments.

A. coalesce

B. crystallize

C. triumph

D. flower

E. dissolve

F. transcend

8. The teacher's mercurial mood changes and ____ approach to grading made the students uneasy; they never knew what would please him or what would earn good marks.

A. tardy

B. authoritarian

C. strict

D. ambivalent

E. whimsical

F. hidebound

9. The book is an attempt on the part of the eminent scholar to reconcile the ____ experience and theoretical underpinnings of certain everyday phenomena.

A. philosophical

B. empirical

C. arcane

D. practical

E. superficial

F. obtuse

10. The last candidate interviewed conducted herself with commendable ____ even when badgered with questions that had drawn unseemly outbursts from all the other interviewees.

A. pertinacity

B. adroitness

C. alacrity

D. decorum

E. propriety

F. presence of mind