

GRE VERBAL PRACTICE PAPER

Question 1

For questions 1 and 2, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.

Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

Question

My feelings about Shelly are _____ because on one hand she is a loyal friend, but on the other, she is a cruel and vicious thief.

ambivalent

certain

sure

definite

conclusive

Question 2

For questions 1 and 2, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.

Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

Question

Despite the opportunity for heroism, the captain led his soldiers into a _____ retreat and since then the man has been rated as a coward.

courageous

brave

pusillanimous

bold

stalwart

Question 3

For questions 3 and 4, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.

Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

Question

Do not expect this to be a uniformly _____ journey; it may be more of a roller-coaster ride with some rather _____ descents.

Blank (1)

soul-crushing

reassuring

unreassuring

Blank (2)

bleak

cheerful

jocund

Question 4

For questions 3 and 4, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.

Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

Question

Even for the most _____ among us, the viral videos of voters waiting in line for hours to exercise one of the most fundamental democratic rights are confounding and _____.

Blank (1)

jaded

entertained

rejuvenated

Blank (2)

depressing

beaming

exhilarating

Question 5

For questions 5 and 6, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.

Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

Question

There is surprisingly little research on how these _____ features of the environment might change prisoners' personalities in terms of the "Big Five" model of personality that _____ most modern research on the general, non-prison population (based around the key traits like _____ and conscientiousness).

Blank (1)

chronic

curable

eradicable

Blank (2)

bows

dominates

arrogates

Blank (3)

introversion

ambiversion

extroversion

Question 6

For questions 5 and 6, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.

Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

Question

Chicxulub Puerto, Mexico, is the centre of the impact _____ that scientists believe was made when the asteroid that _____ out the dinosaurs _____ into the Earth's surface.

Blank (1)

crater

bulge

knob

Blank (2)

wiped

contaminated

blighted
Blank (3)

- smashed
- mended
- patched

Question 7

This question is based on the following reading passage.

According to Mercy Amba Oduyoye in *Daughters of Anowa: African Women and Patriarchy*, the women of the Asante people of Ghana participated in war as nurses or in providing supplies, but only those who had not yet reached or who were past childbearing age. If such women died in battle, they died “as individuals and not as potential sources of human life.”

As such, many old women engaged in valiant acts, sometimes sacrificing their own lives, to defend those they had given life to.

Question

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- The deaths of Asante women of childbearing age were lamented more than were the deaths of other women.
- Older Asante women were more courageous than younger Asante women.
- Some of those who worked as nurses or in providing supplies died in battle.
- Women of childbearing age were accorded special status above other women and men.
- Men could not be considered “potential sources of human life.”

Question 8

PREV NEXT

This question is based on the following reading passage.

A Small Place is Jamaica Kincaid's memoir of growing up in Antigua as well as an indictment of the Antiguan government and Britain's colonial legacy in Antigua. Kincaid blames colonial rule for many of Antigua's current problems, including drug dealing and selling off land for tourist properties. Kincaid's critics question why, if the British are responsible for the Antiguan government's corruption, the British government itself isn't more corrupt. Kincaid has responded that there must have been some good people among the British, but that they stayed home.

Question

Consider each of the answer choices separately and indicate all that apply.

Based on the information in the passage, which of the following would Kincaid most likely agree with?

A government can bring about a degree of corruption abroad that the government itself does not suffer from at home.

Britain has caused corruption in governments throughout its former colonial empire.

Selling off land for tourism-related purposes is a problem for Antigua.

Question 9

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the following reading passage.

(1) The literature of the American West ranges from lowbrow entertainment to great works of fiction. The extremes are obvious enough, but the middle tends to blur. The dime-store Western never aspired to be anything but entertainment. James Fenimore Cooper and Willa Cather, however, used themes of westward expansion in works clearly intended as highbrow literature. The novels of modern writer Larry McMurtry broke new ground: He took the Western and created a great piece of fiction, without changing its fundamental genre appeal or its accessibility to the general reader.

(2) As an example of his retooling of the Western genre, consider McMurtry's themes. While the Western myth is fundamentally about resettlement to new lands. McMurtry's novels combine elements of the Western myth with less traditional motifs: profound reluctance to face change, conflict between urbanization and the Western ideal, the importance of place, and the role of the land itself. While the traditional Western is rooted in the past, McMurtry's themes combine nostalgia for that past with a sense of emptiness in the present and hopelessness for the future.

(3) Or consider McMurtry's treatment of character. The traditional Western formula depicts mainly masculine characters and portrays them as both heroic and human. In his novels, McMurtry creates strong female characters, transmuting the conventional plot of the trials and

dangers of the frontier by folding in deeper ideological insights. Critics rightly credit his novels with reshaping the Western genre, praising his work and its meticulous attention to the Western mise en scene as a subversive but sincere tribute to the American West.

Question

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

According to the passage, the ideological undertones in McMurtry's novels stem from the

introduction of strong female characters

portrayal of the dangerous nature of the Western frontier

subversive nature of the writing

Question 10

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the following reading passage.

(1) The literature of the American West ranges from lowbrow entertainment to great works of fiction. The extremes are obvious enough, but the middle tends to blur. The dime-store Western never aspired to be anything but entertainment. James Fenimore Cooper and Willa Cather, however, used themes of westward expansion in works clearly intended as highbrow literature. The novels of modern writer Larry McMurtry broke new ground: He took the Western and created a great piece of fiction, without changing its fundamental genre appeal or its accessibility to the general reader.

(2) As an example of his retooling of the Western genre, consider McMurtry's themes. While the Western myth is fundamentally about resettlement to new lands. McMurtry's novels combine elements of the Western myth with less traditional motifs: profound reluctance to face change, conflict between urbanization and the Western ideal, the importance of place, and the role of the land itself. While the traditional Western is rooted in the past, McMurtry's themes combine nostalgia for that past with a sense of emptiness in the present and hopelessness for the future.

(3) Or consider McMurtry's treatment of character. The traditional Western formula depicts mainly masculine characters and portrays them as both heroic and human. In his novels, McMurtry creates strong female characters, transmuting the conventional plot of the trials and dangers of the frontier by folding in deeper ideological insights. Critics rightly credit his novels with reshaping the Western genre, praising his work and its meticulous attention to the Western mise en scene as a subversive but sincere tribute to the American West.

Question

It can be inferred that the author regards McMurtry's treatment of character with



regret because McMurtry did not adhere to Western novelistic conventions



concern that the characterizations altered the nature of the Western formula



approval for the manner in which their inclusion transformed the Western genre

Question 11

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the following reading passage.

(1) The literature of the American West ranges from lowbrow entertainment to great works of fiction. The extremes are obvious enough, but the middle tends to blur. The dime-store Western never aspired to be anything but entertainment. James Fenimore Cooper and Willa Cather, however, used themes of westward expansion in works clearly intended as highbrow literature. The novels of modern writer Larry McMurtry broke new ground: He took the Western and created a great piece of fiction, without changing its fundamental genre appeal or its accessibility to the general reader.

(2) As an example of his retooling of the Western genre, consider McMurtry's themes. While the Western myth is fundamentally about resettlement to new lands. McMurtry's novels combine elements of the Western myth with less traditional motifs: profound reluctance to face change, conflict between urbanization and the Western ideal, the importance of place, and the role of the land itself. While the traditional Western is rooted in the past, McMurtry's themes combine nostalgia for that past with a sense of emptiness in the present and hopelessness for the future.

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Question

The author refers to James Fenimore Cooper and Willa Cather in order to suggest



that they were contemporaries of McMurtry



that their works are examples of entertaining literature



that the themes of the Western genre could be employed in literature meant to appeal to a more sophisticated reader

Question 12

PREV NEXT

For questions 12 to 16, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

Question

Since his term exams were round the corner, Adam _____ between going on the family vacation and staying back at home to study.

vacillated

stayed

determined

decided

continued

remained

Question 13

For questions 12 to 16, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

Question

Despite the opportunity for heroism, the captain led his soldiers into a _____ retreat and since then the man has been rated as a coward.

pusillanimous

dauntless

gutsy

stalwart

brazen

valiant

Question 14

For questions 12 to 16, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

Question

Sophie always knew the relationship with Haden would be _____; she just didn't expect they would breakup so soon.

everlasting

permanent

ephemeral

eternal

chronic

lifelong

Question 15

For questions 12 to 16, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

Question

After the party, Jenny and her brother were _____ in their efforts to clean up the mess because they knew their parents were on their way home.

carefree

indifferent

fastidious

unfastidious

cursory

unfussy

Question 16

For questions 12 to 16, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

Question

Though Sarah's husband is an _____ person who often beats her for trivial reasons, she has always tried to be nice to him.

accomplished

admiring

affirmative

inimical

auspicious

affable

Question 17

Questions 17 and 18 are based on the following reading passage.

The paintings of Eugene Delacroix are as political, complex, tumultuous, and vivid as the life of Lord Byron, who inspired some of Delacroix's best works, such as *Greece Expiring on the Ruins of Missolonghi* and *Scenes des massacres de Scio*. Simultaneously, the paintings boast an incredible melange of the artistic traditions of prior masters and movements—such as a preoccupation with *terribilitas* from Michelangelo; a flair for color from Titian; and power, strength, and exuberance from Rubens—all underlain by the harmony and balance of classical artists and tinted with the Baroque. Delacroix combined eclectic elements and infused them with his own genius, creating a unique expression of Romanticism, and in so doing, inspired yet another style, Symbolism.

Question

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

The passage suggests that which of the following are NOT unique elements of the paintings of Delacroix?

A tint of the Baroque

A preoccupation with *terribilitas*

Diverse artistic traditions mixed with Delacroix's own acumen

Question 18

Questions 17 and 18 are based on the following reading passage.

The paintings of Eugene Delacroix are as political, complex, tumultuous, and vivid as the life of Lord Byron, who inspired some of Delacroix's best works, such as *Greece Expiring on the Ruins of Missolonghi* and *Scenes des massacres de Scio*. Simultaneously, the paintings boast an incredible melange of the artistic traditions of prior masters and movements—such as a preoccupation with *terribilitas* from Michelangelo; a flair for color from Titian; and power, strength, and exuberance from Rubens—all underlain by the harmony and balance of classical artists and tinted with the Baroque. Delacroix combined eclectic elements and infused them with his own genius, creating a unique expression of Romanticism, and in so doing, inspired yet another style, Symbolism.

Question

According to the passage, Delacroix's painting *Scènes des massacres de Scio* was influenced by



Greece Expiring on the Ruins of Missolonghi



a mix of artistic traditions



the life of Lord Byron



prior masters and their movements



the Baroque period

Question 19

Questions 19 and 20 are based on the following reading passage.

In The Federalist Number Ten. James Madison forewarned against the dangers of factions—groups of people with a common interest adverse to the overall good of the nation, what today are referred to as "special interest groups." Madison described two hypothetical ways to check a faction: Either eliminate the causes or mitigate the effects of the faction. To eliminate the causes, the government would either have to make all people perfectly equal, an impossible goal, or take away people's liberty and thus defeat the purpose of having a republican form of government. Madison argued, alternatively, for ameliorating the effects of factions by enlarging the population of the country and thus diluting their influence. If there are a sufficient number of diverse peoples, it will be difficult for a majority to share a common interest at the same time.

Question

Which of the following can be most correctly inferred from the passage?



Madison analyzed the effects of increased population.



Madison considered more than one way to constrain factions.



Madison argued against a republican government in *The Federalist Number Ten*.



Madison thought that the best solution was to make all citizens equal.



Madison solved the problem of factions in the United States.

Question 20

Questions 19 and 20 are based on the following reading passage.

In The Federalist Number Ten. James Madison forewarned against the dangers of factions—groups of people with a common interest adverse to the overall good of the nation, what today are referred to as "special interest groups." Madison described two hypothetical ways to check a faction: Either eliminate the causes or mitigate the effects of the faction. To eliminate the causes, the government would either have to make all people perfectly equal, an impossible goal, or take away people's liberty and thus defeat the purpose of having a republican form of government. Madison argued, alternatively, for ameliorating the effects of factions by enlarging the population of the country and thus diluting their influence. If there are a sufficient number of diverse peoples, it will be difficult for a majority to share a common interest at the same time.

Question

According to the passage, why does Madison believe it necessary to check a faction?

Madison considered factions to be detrimental to the common welfare.

Madison thought factions were a way to encourage population growth.

Madison relied on factions to support the republican style of government.

Madison accepted factions as a consequence of allowing people to participate in government.

Madison surmised that factions would likely be run by his political adversaries.

21.

Choose the word or set of words that best completes the following sentence.

. As hundreds of cars were _____ by the traffic jam and brought to a standstill, Francine felt like a _____ as she rode her bicycle past them in the bike lane, the only one not prevented from getting to work on time.

- obviated . . . anathema
- impeded . . . maverick
- prevaricated . . . iconoclast
- piqued . . . neophyte
- obstructed . . . zealot

22.

Choose the word or set of words that best completes the following sentence.

. When planning any trip, it is advisable to consider any number of potential _____. Any number of unforeseen events can delay the trip, potentially _____ one's mood upon arrival at the destination.

- delays . . . unsettling
- factors . . . changing
- vexations . . . jaundicing
- disasters . . . ruining
- contingencies . . . souring

23.

Choose the word or set of words that best completes the following sentence.

. The old man had the reputation for being a _____. Many of his words were delivered to _____ events that he believed inevitable in the given circumstances.

- crank . . . berate
- savior . . . prevent
- troublemaker . . . precipitate
- soothsayer . . . portend
- yammerer . . . spread

24.

Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

. The student showed surprising _____ at his own academic misconduct hearing, disappointing the teachers who had _____ for him to be allowed back into the program he had been barred from.

- cogency . . . equivocated
- frivolity . . . ameliorated
- boisterousness . . . vacillated
- probity . . . averred

- levity . . . advocated

25.

Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

. Plays by that playwright often feature clever thieves who use _____ to _____ their victims' money.

- perspicacity . . . waylay
- sedulousness . . . attenuate
- bombast . . . escape with
- erudition . . . annex
- chicanery . . . abscond with

26.

Choose the word or set of words that best completes the following sentence.

. In his brief _____, he _____ his correspondents for their inability to reply in a timely manner.

- extradition . . . debilitated
- recapitulation . . . summarized
- tome . . . lauded
- epistle . . . lambasted
- hiatus . . . equivocated

27.

. The soldier grabbed a _____ to fight the invaders although it could not _____ their armor.

- tome . . . laud
- ruse . . . cajole
- lance . . . breach
- savant . . . goad
- receptacle . . . grasp

28.

Choose the word or set of words that best completes the following sentence.

. The old dictator continued to rule by _____; however, in his old age, derangement led him to do this above all by _____ unexpected new meanings for venerable public phrases.

control . . . considering

treachery . . . offering

mania . . . defining

fiat . . . stipulating

inconsistency . . . fabricating

29.

Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

. "The _____ think they know everything," said the frustrated politician, who decided she would _____ listening to the "expert" media coverage of her speeches from then on.

- partisans . . . variegate
- pundits . . . persevere
- partisans . . . eschew
- vagrants . . . persevere
- pundits . . . eschew