Vocab in Context - Medium - Set 1 (15 Questions)

Question 1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	■■□

ID: 359902ae

The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1837 story "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment." The main character, a physician, is experimenting with rehydrating a dried flower.

> At first [the rose] lay lightly on the surface of the fluid, appearing to imbibe none of its moisture. Soon, however, a singular change began to be visible. The crushed and dried petals stirred and assumed a deepening tinge of crimson, as if the flower were reviving from a deathlike slumber.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "a singular" most nearly mean?

A. A lonely

B. A disagreeable = *not nice, unpleasant*

C. An acceptable

D. An extraordinary = *unexpected, surprising, incredible, or strange*

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ID: 757077f9

During a 2014 archaeological dig in Spain, Vicente Lull and his team uncovered the skeleton of a woman from El Algar, an Early Bronze Age society, buried with valuable objects signaling a high position of power. This finding may persuade researchers who have argued that Bronze Age societies were ruled by men to ____that women may have also held leadership roles.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. waive = *to forgo; to choose not to demand something (a fee, right, ownership...)*

B. concede = *to admit that something is true, logical, etc. after first denying it or resisting it*

C. refute = *to prove that something is wrong*

D. require

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ID: 84ece3f6

The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1844 short story "Drowne's Wooden Image." Drowne, a young man, is carving a wooden figure to decorate the front of a ship.

Day by day, the work assumed greater precision, and settled its irregular and misty outline into distincter grace and beauty. The general design was now obvious to the common eye.

As used in the text, what does the word "assumed" most nearly mean?

A. acquired = *gained or obtained something*

B. acknowledged = *recognized the existence, truth, or fact of*

C. imitated = *copied the way a person speaks or behaves*

D. speculated = *guessed; formed an opinion about something without knowing all the details or facts*

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ID: 4974b053

Although science fiction was dominated mostly by white male authors when Octavia Butler, a Black woman, began writing, she did not view the genre as _____: Butler broke into the field with the publication of several short stories and her 1976 novel *Patternmaster*, and she later became the first science fiction writer to win a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. legitimate = *having a fair and acceptable reason; justifiable*

B. impenetrable = *that cannot be entered, passed through or seen through*

C. compelling = *strong and convincing; making you pay attention to it because it is so interesting and exciting*

D. Indecipherable = *(of writing or speech) impossible to read or understand*

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ID: 5a278f24

The work of molecular biophysicist Enrique M. De La Cruz is known for _____traditional boundaries between academic disciplines. The university laboratory that De La Cruz runs includes engineers, biologists, chemists, and physicists, and the research the lab produces makes use of insights and techniques from all those fields.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. epitomizing = *being a perfect example of something*

B. transcending = *exceeding; going beyond the usual limits of something*

C. Anticipating = *expecting; seeing what might happen in the future and take action to prepare for it*

D. reinforcing = *making stronger (a feeling, an idea, structure, material etc.)*

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ID: e0656211

In *Nature Poem* (2017), Kumeyaay poet Tommy Pico portrays his ___the natural world by honoring the centrality of nature within his tribe's traditional beliefs while simultaneously expressing his distaste for being in wilderness settings himself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. responsiveness to = *reacting quickly and in a positive way*

B. ambivalence toward = *having or showing both positive and negative feelings about somebody/something*

C. renunciation of = *stating publicly that you no longer believe something or that you are giving something up*

D. mastery over = *control or power*

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ID: 9aa44886

The following text is from F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel *The Great Gatsby*.

> [Jay Gatsby] was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American—that comes, I suppose, with the absence of lifting work in youth and, even more, with the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games. This quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness.

As used in the text, what does the word "quality" most nearly mean?

A. standard = *something considered as a basis of comparison*

B. prestige = *status; respect and admiration that a person or organization has for their value or quality*

C. characteristic = *a typical quality, feature or manner that something/somebody has*

D. accomplishment= *an impressive achievement*

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ID: e8c26398

To develop a method for measuring snow depth with laser beams, NASA physicist Yongxiang Hu relied on ___; identifying broad similarities between two seemingly different phenomena, Hu used information about how ants move inside colonies to calculate how the particles of light that make up laser beams travel through snow.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. a collaboration

B. an accessory = *something useful but not essential or added to something else as a decoration*

C. a contradiction = *opposition between things compared; inconsistency*

D. an analogy = *comparing one thing with another thing that has similar features in order to explain it*

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ID: 8b46bb51

A journalist and well-respected art critic of nineteenth-century Britain, Lady Elizabeth Rigby Eastlake did not hesitate to publish reviews that went against popular opinion. One of her most divisive works was an essay questioning the idea of photography as an emerging medium for fine art: in the essay, Eastlake _____that the value of photographs was informational rather than creative.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. exposed = *revealed; showed something that is usually hidden*

B. asserted = *said, declared or stated clearly and strongly that something is true*

C. discovered

D. doubted

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ID: d3ca5d59

Stephen Hannock's luminous landscape paintings are appealing to viewers but have elicited little commentary from contemporary critics, a phenomenon that may be due to the very fact that the paintings seem so ____. Many critics focus their attention on art that is cryptic or overtly challenging.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. innovative = *introducing or using new ideas, ways of doing something, etc.*

B. subversive = *trying or likely to destroy or damage a government or political system*

C. profound = *having deep meaning or understanding; strongly felt*

D. accessible= *that can be reached, entered, used, seen, etc; easy to understand*

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ID: c5b1afe5

Bicycle sharing systems allow users to rent a bicycle at one location within a city and return it to any other designated location in that city, which can cause serious problems of bicycle supply and user demand within the city's system. Tohru Ikeguchi uses open-source data and statistical modeling to identify when a high number of users making one-way trips is likely to leave some locations within the system ___bicycles and other areas with insufficient supply.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. susceptible to = *very likely to be influenced, harmed or affected by something*

B. contingent on = *depending on something that may or may not happen*

C. saturated with = *full of; made thoroughly wet*

D. depleted of = *reduced by a large amount; emptied*

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ID: 81a3a607

In the Indigenous intercropping system known as the Three Sisters, maize, squash, and beans form an _____web of relations: maize provides the structure on which the bean vines grow; the squash vines cover the soil, discouraging competition from weeds; and the beans aid their two "sisters" by enriching the soil with essential nitrogen.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. indecipherable = *(of writing or speech) impossible to read or understand*

B. ornamental = *decorative; used as decoration rather than for a practical purpose*

C. obscure = *not well known; difficult to understand*

D. intricate = *complicated; having a lot of different parts and small details that fit together*

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ID: fce80a36

In 2008 a complete set of ancient *pessoi* (glass game pieces) was uncovered from beneath a paving stone in modern-day Israel. Due to their small size, *pessoi* were easily misplaced, making a whole set a rare find. This has led some experts to suggest that the set may have been buried intentionally; however, without clear evidence, archaeologists are left to ____ what happened.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. speculate about = *guess; form an opinion about something without knowing all the details or facts*

B. dismiss = *reject; put aside as not worth consideration*

C. expand on = *say more about something and add some details*

D. catalog = *arrange a list of things in order in a catalog*

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ID: e37b9e34

Some researchers believe that the genes that enable groundhogs and certain other mammals to hibernate through the winter by slowing their breathing and heart rates and lowering their body temperature may be ___in humans: present yet having essentially no effect on our bodily processes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. decisive = *very important for the final result of a particular situation*

B. lacking

C. variable = *often changing; likely to change*

D. dormant = *not active or growing now but able to become active or to grow in the future*

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ID: 1fa751f1

Handedness, a preferential use of either the right or left hand, typically is easy to observe in humans. Because this trait is present but less _____in many other animals, animal-behavior researchers often employ tasks specially designed to reveal individual animals' preferences for a certain hand or paw.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. recognizable = *easy to know or identify*

B. intriguing = *causing great interest or curiosity*

C. significant = *large or important enough to have an effect or to be noticed*

D. useful