Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 10 · Meaning from context · Try 2

Name or code _____ Date _____

Read each passage. Circle the letter that gives the best meaning in that passage.

Passage 1

I wanted to keep the final scene, even after the group explained why the hall booking made it impossible. The others waited while I ran a finger down the page for the third time. I finally decided to **acquiesce**, although cutting the scene felt different from agreeing that it was unnecessary. I had written most of it on the bus and still remembered the first line arriving between two stops.

I crossed the scene from the rehearsal list and took my place for the next one. I would still perform the rest of the play, but I did not want my silence to be mistaken for enthusiasm about the change.

“Save it for another version,” the director said, handing back the loose pages. I placed them in a separate folder and opened the script at the next scene we needed to rehearse.

1. As used here, “acquiesce” suggests which meaning?

Circle ONE letter.

A yield to a decision without openly opposing it

B withdraw entirely without accepting any terms

C pretend not to understand the decision being discussed

D approve enthusiastically after winning agreement

Passage 2

After the real interview, I described a **paradox** that had surprised me. I had practiced the interview until I could repeat every answer without looking at my notes. My sister sat on the windowsill, turning a loose button between her fingers as she listened. The interview was for a project I had wanted to join since the previous autumn. She set the notebook beside me and waited while I tried to explain the interview. I had prepared more thoroughly than ever, yet felt less able to respond when the conversation changed direction.

Memorizing fixed answers had made it harder to answer questions I had not predicted. My preparation had been extensive, but it had trained me to follow a script rather than listen and think with the interviewer. “Try asking me something you’ve never rehearsed,” my sister said, dropping the button into my palm. I closed the notebook and asked about the question she had been waiting for me to ask.

2. As used here, “paradox” suggests which meaning?

Circle ONE letter.

A a comparison of unrelated events or ideas

B an error that makes every conclusion false

C a deliberate trick with no consistent meaning

D a seemingly contradictory but valid situation

Passage 3

A theater group pinned a provisional festival schedule above the costume rack. Participation was **contingent** on receiving permission to use the rehearsal hall during the preceding week. The date appeared on the schedule, but the group had not yet sent invitations.

Without the additional rehearsal space, the performers could not prepare the moving scenery required for the entry. The hall manager was still checking a conflicting booking, and the group could not assume that an available performance date settled that separate problem.

The coordinator asked members to distinguish a plan from a commitment. They could prepare a costume list and discuss transport while waiting, but they should not promise an event that depended on unresolved access.

At the next rehearsal, a blank envelope waited beneath the schedule for the hall manager’s reply. The coordinator left the invitation file closed beside the sewing basket.

3. Which meaning of “contingent” fits the writer’s account?

Circle ONE letter.

A certain to occur regardless of later events

B dependent on a condition being satisfied

C already completed under the original arrangements

D delayed because no one has considered it

Passage 4

My first three deliveries had each taken twenty minutes, and I was already planning what to do with the evening. My older cousin watched me add the times in my notebook. She asked whether it was reasonable to **extrapolate** from those three nearby stops to the rest of the route. I lined up the remaining addresses beside the bicycle pump. The last customer expected a parcel before closing the shop, and I had given my word.

After three short trips, I had assigned their timing to every remaining address. The later addresses lay farther apart, and one required a long climb from the river road, so the first three trips might not represent the others.

“Ride the next section before you promise dinner,” she said, handing me the route map. I put an eraser through the confident finishing time and tightened the strap around my parcel bag.

4. What does “extrapolate” most nearly mean in this passage?

Circle ONE letter.

A describe observations without extending them

B replace results with a preferred explanation

C compare two sources to confirm the same exact fact

D project a trend beyond the observations at hand

Passage 5

A student policy review compared two explanations for declining attendance at a workshop. One account blamed the topic; another focused on a recent change in transport schedules. The reviewers asked which account would remain **tenable** when the dates and the visitors’ comments were considered together. The attendance decline mattered because the group needed to decide whether to continue the sessions. Members placed the attendance sheets beside a list of the sessions offered that term.

Students who lost their evening bus accounted for most of the new absences. That finding did not establish a single cause for every absence. The transport explanation was nevertheless defensible, although further information could still change the conclusion.

The review requested further attendance data before recommending a permanent change to the program. At the next meeting, a new column waited beside the existing figures for information that had not yet been collected.

5. Which meaning of “tenable” fits the writer’s account?

Circle ONE letter.

A capable of being supported by sound reasoning

B widely accepted without examination

C guaranteed to remain true under every condition

D brief enough to explain without supporting details

Passage 6

The exhibition team pinned its room plan beside a chart of volunteer assignments. Several people had begun answering the same questions, while other responsibilities had no clear owner. At the earlier session, visitors moved from helper to helper and left without an answer. The coordinator called a short meeting before the next public session began that afternoon.

She asked the team to **delineate** the responsibilities of the welcome desk and the display guides. The chart assigned greetings, explanations and unresolved questions to clearly identified roles. It also showed where the roles worked together, preventing a boundary from becoming an excuse to leave a visitor without help.

Each volunteer checked the chart against an example from the previous session. The coordinator attached the final version beside the room plan, where the next shift would see it before visitors arrived at the entrance.

6. Which meaning of “delineate” fits the writer’s account?

Circle ONE letter.

A hint at the topic without detail

B defend a preference while avoiding its practical limits

C set out the main features with clear distinctions

D erase distinctions to produce one broad category

Teacher use: ____ / 6