Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 6 · Shades of meaning · Try 1

Name or code _____ Date _____

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

Passage 1

Before the exhibition opened, the art club compared two versions of a landscape painting. In one, the sky was bright orange; in the other, a faint warmer color appeared only near the horizon.

Several students did not notice the change in the second version until the artist pointed it out. It altered the mood gently without attracting attention to itself.

The artist wanted evening to seem near without letting the sky overpower the quiet river details. A **subtle** change served that purpose better than the brighter version.

1. What does the author's choice of the word "subtle" suggest about the effect of the change?

Circle ONE letter.

A completely absent from the finished work

B gentle or slight enough to be hard to notice

C impossible for anyone to understand

D so dramatic that it dominates everything else

Passage 2

During a model bridge challenge, several teams rushed to attach all their pieces before testing any of them. Dara's movements were **deliberate**.

She examined the diagram, compared two possible joints, and checked the first connection before adding another section.

Each action followed a considered decision rather than a hurried guess, even when other teams began cheering that they had finished. Dara was not wasting time; she wanted each choice to serve a clear purpose in the final design.

2. What does the author's choice of the word "deliberate" suggest about Dara's approach?

Circle ONE letter.

A carefully considered and done with a purpose

B accidental and unrelated to any plan

C changed repeatedly without considering a reason

D slow only because the task is not understood

Passage 3

After the science fair, the announcer praised Niko for designing the team's winning display. Niko was pleased, but he did not tell everyone that he had done all the important work. Instead, he named classmates who had tested the model and improved the explanation.

His response was **modest**. He acknowledged his contribution without boasting or making himself seem more important than the rest of the team.

He did not pretend he had contributed nothing or refuse to accept congratulations from the visitors.

3. What does the author's choice of the word "modest" suggest about Niko's response to praise?

Circle ONE letter.

A ashamed to speak with other people

B not boastful about personal achievements

C convinced that no useful contribution was made

D eager to claim all the credit

Passage 4

During a discussion about two courtyard designs, the facilitator needed to make sure both groups could explain their ideas and answer questions. She separated that role from any private preference about the plans.

She gave neither design an advantage and used the same respectful tone when introducing both proposals.

The students had to evaluate the evidence themselves instead of relying on hints about which plan she preferred, and each group had an equal opportunity to explain its reasoning. Her **neutral** comments left the judgment to the students.

4. What does the author's choice of the word "neutral" suggest about the facilitator's attitude?

Circle ONE letter.

A supporting whichever side is more popular

B avoiding every detail about the disagreement

C unable to understand either position

D not favoring either side of a disagreement

Passage 5

The design team had several suggestions for its exhibition poster. During a meeting, one member began replacing everybody's ideas with his own. The group was sitting around a table covered with paper samples and colored pens.

Elena insisted on a fair hearing, then listened respectfully to the other views.

The meeting ended with three designs still under consideration. Members agreed to bring their finished sketches to the art room before the next discussion at lunchtime. Elena's **assertive** reply had protected her chance to speak without denying anyone else theirs.

5. As used in this passage, what does the word "assertive" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A aggressive about controlling everyone else

B eager to agree with every suggestion

C firm about a view while respecting others

D too uncertain to express any opinion

Passage 6

At the makers' exhibition, Ava was invited to try a small unfamiliar hand tool. Ava's approach was **cautious**.

The instructor placed a practice piece of wood beside her. Her friends watched from the opposite side of the workbench while the instructor waited nearby.

She checked how the tool should be held and tried a slow practice movement before beginning the actual task.

After the demonstration, Ava wrote the tool's name in her notebook. The exhibition included displays from several school clubs and a table where visitors could ask questions.

6. As used in this passage, what does the word "cautious" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A attentive to possible danger before acting

B eager to finish before considering consequences

C unwilling to attempt anything unfamiliar

D certain that no danger could possibly exist

Teacher use: ____ / 6