Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 7 · Meaning from context · Try 1

Name or code _____ Date _____

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

Passage 1

A community center wanted more residents to walk to its Saturday workshops. Organizers could explain the environmental benefits, but they also wanted to make the choice convenient and appealing.

Anyone arriving on foot could borrow a small cart to carry materials home without paying the usual fee. The offer gave residents an additional reason to leave their cars behind. That offer was intended as an **incentive**.

At the end of the month, the center compared attendance with the previous month’s totals. The organizers wanted to learn whether their new offer had influenced travel choices, rather than simply assuming that everyone liked it.

1. As used in this passage, what does “incentive” most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A a fee required before someone can participate

B a rule that prevents an action

C a benefit that encourages someone to act

D a result that happens unexpectedly

Passage 2

The makers' club kept a list of every tool borrowed for a weekend exhibition. Before closing the workshop, two students compared the list with the equipment returned to the storage shelves.

The written list showed twelve small clamps, but only eleven were on the shelf. The students decided to check the display tables before reporting a clamp lost.

By the end of the check, the students could explain the **discrepancy**. One clamp was still holding a model bridge together beneath a cloth. After returning it, the students corrected the list and added a reminder to check equipment still being used in displays.

2. As used in this passage, what does “discrepancy” most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A a mismatch between expected amounts

B an improvement achieved through practice

C a pattern repeated in the same way

D a delay before information is shared

Passage 3

For a class exhibition, students wrote explanations of how their model water filters worked. The group worked to make one account **coherent**.

One explanation jumped from cleaning the container to discussing the final results, then returned to the materials needed at the beginning.

After revision, each step followed the one before it, and linking sentences explained how the materials, method and results were connected. Visitors no longer had to guess how separate details belonged together. The revised account was slightly longer than the original. Its improvement came from the relationships among its ideas, rather than from using fewer words or more impressive vocabulary.

3. As used in this passage, what does “coherent” most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A brief enough to omit most details

B strongly emotional in its appeal

C filled with impressive technical words

D logically connected and easy to follow

Passage 4

The outdoor theater scheduled its opening performance for Friday evening. Volunteers arranged seats in the courtyard and checked that the actors could be heard beyond the first few rows.

The director also planned for a **contingency**. Rain might make the courtyard unusable, so the group reserved the community hall as an alternative. No one knew whether they would need it, but preparing early would prevent a last-minute cancellation.

The actors practiced moving their scenery through both entrances. The additional rehearsal required effort, yet it gave the company a workable response if conditions changed on the evening of the performance.

4. As used in this passage, what does “contingency” most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A a goal everyone is certain to achieve

B a possible event needing a backup plan

C a decision that cannot be changed

D a task that has already been completed

Passage 5

The museum's student committee was reviewing a photograph for a local-history display. A handwritten date appeared on the back, but one digit had faded almost completely.

The students placed the photograph beside a larger map. An archivist proposed a **plausible** reading of the damaged date and asked them to investigate it further.

A store visible in the picture opened two years before the proposed date and closed three years afterward. The buildings and street signs therefore fit the period the archivist had suggested.

The committee added a small card beneath the photograph. It explained what was known and what still required confirmation before the display could be described as complete.

5. As used in this passage, what does "plausible" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A simple enough to require no effort

B certain because it has been proved

C interesting because it is unusual

D supported as possible by the facts

Passage 6

Mina arrived early to help arrange the equipment for the community concert. The folding chairs filled the square in neat rows, with a narrow aisle running down the middle. Mina carried a yellow instrument case.

Nearly every other case was black, so Mina would be able to identify hers immediately from across the crowded square. She would not have to search through the entire pile when the concert ended. She set her instrument case beside a chair near the entrance.

A volunteer handed her a program and pointed toward the stage. Mina checked her name in the list of performers, then joined the rest of the musicians for their final rehearsal. Back near the entrance, her case's yellow cover was **conspicuous** among the other cases waiting there.

6. As used in this passage, what does "conspicuous" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A familiar because it has been seen before

B important because it is expensive

C easy to notice among other things

D carefully hidden from attention

Teacher use: ____ / 6