Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 7 · 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

Nolan had pages of notes about the strange sounds coming from the abandoned theater. When he tried to explain his theory to Ada, he kept interrupting himself with details from different evenings.

A passing bus rattled the windows of the cafe. Ada asked him to make his explanation more **coherent** before they planned their next visit.

Nolan arranged the events in order and explained how each sound led him to his next conclusion. Ada could finally follow the connections without stopping him to ask what had happened first.

They drew a small map on the back of a receipt. Whatever caused the sounds, they agreed that their next step should be to speak with the building’s caretaker.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A brief enough to omit most details

B filled with impressive technical words

C strongly emotional in its appeal

D clearly connected and well organized

Passage 2

Lena and her brother had spent a month preparing a neighborhood history walk. Their route ended at a small museum, where an employee had agreed to show visitors several photographs.

If the museum unexpectedly closed, the group would need another place to finish the walk and discuss the photographs. Her brother had arranged permission to use the library meeting room if that happened.

Lena folded the route map into her coat pocket. Before leaving, she asked whether they had considered every reasonable **contingency**.

They carried copies of the photographs in a waterproof folder. The morning looked ordinary, but Lena felt better knowing that an unexpected change would not leave their visitors without a final stop.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A a goal everyone is certain to achieve

B an event that may require another plan

C a task that has already been completed

D a decision that cannot be changed

Passage 3

Two neighborhood groups wanted to use the community garden’s remaining plot. The garden coordinator promised to be **impartial** while reviewing the requests.

One proposed a flower bed, and the other wanted to grow vegetables for a shared meal. The garden coordinator posted the meeting time at the entrance.

She judged both requests by the same rules and gave both groups equal speaking time. Friendship with several members of the flower group did not change her evaluation.

The meeting ended before sunset, and everyone helped return the chairs to storage. The coordinator planned to publish her decision the next morning, together with an explanation of how each proposal met the garden’s requirements.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A equally fair to the people involved

B loyal to the group with more supporters

C determined to make a quick decision

D unwilling to listen to any disagreement

Passage 4

Inez helped launch an audio newsletter for students who could not attend the after-school announcements. At first, her friends recorded every episode together during lunch.

The group borrowed a quiet room on Thursdays. Inez wondered whether they could **sustain** the project when sports and examinations made their schedules busier.

They divided the tasks, trained two additional readers and arranged backups for anyone who was absent. With those supports, the newsletter could continue throughout the school year instead of stopping after a few episodes.

Inez saved the recordings in a folder with dates and short titles. She liked imagining a future student listening to them and hearing what had mattered to the school that year.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A replace something with a newer version

B make something grow as quickly as possible

C maintain an activity so it can carry on

D begin something without preparation

Passage 5

The school newspaper needed someone to interview the visiting illustrator. Ravi wanted the assignment, but he worried that preparing thoughtful questions would take most of his weekend.

The editor told him that if his interview was ready by Monday, he could design the front page using the illustrator’s drawings. That opportunity made him eager to accept a task he had previously hesitated to undertake.

The editor spread last month’s newspaper across the table. Ravi found a clean notebook in his bag and began listing questions. He wanted to ask about unfinished sketches, revised ideas and the decisions that readers never saw in a completed book. The editor had offered Ravi an **incentive** for doing the extra preparation.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A a rule that prevents an action

B a fee required before someone can participate

C a result that happens unexpectedly

D something offered to motivate participation

Passage 6

Tessa was helping her grandfather assemble a family timeline for a reunion. Tessa noticed a **discrepancy** while comparing a notebook's account with a dated letter.

They had letters, photographs and the notebook, all spread across the dining-room table. The notebook had a blue cover with a torn corner.

The two sources dated the same family move to June and August respectively. Both accounts could not describe the date accurately without some further explanation.

Her grandfather brought another box down from a cupboard. They decided to look for additional documents before choosing which date to print beside the photograph of their first home.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A an improvement achieved through practice

B a difference where agreement is expected

C a pattern repeated in the same way

D a delay before information is shared

Teacher use: ____ / 6