Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 7 · Multiple meanings · Try 1

Name or code _____ Date _____

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

Passage 1

The school council had to choose between extending the lunch period and adding time for student clubs. As the meeting continued, **tension** increased.

Both proposals had strong supporters, and neither could be adopted without changing the daily schedule.

Members interrupted one another, several answers became sharp, and students who normally worked together avoided speaking directly. The disagreement had begun to affect the way they treated one another. The chair called for a short break before asking each side to summarize the other's concerns. The pause did not settle the issue, but it helped members return to a more respectful conversation.

1. As used in this passage, what does "tension" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A a strained atmosphere between people

B a clear plan that everyone supports

C a force that stretches a rope or wire

D a feeling of peaceful satisfaction

Passage 2

The headline for a school investigation announced that a new watering method helped all plants grow faster. Before printing it, the editor compared that claim with the students' actual results.

She asked them to **qualify** the statement. Their trial involved only one kind of seedling under classroom conditions, so the conclusion should apply to those plants rather than to every plant everywhere. Adding that condition would make the report more accurate.

The students revised both the headline and the final paragraph. Their result remained interesting, but the finished account distinguished what the investigation showed from what it had not tested.

2. As used in this passage, what does "qualify" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A repeat another person's words exactly

B make a statement more forceful by removing details

C meet the requirements for entering a competition

D limit a statement by adding a condition

Passage 3

Devika listened while her uncle praised her cousin's success in the town storytelling contest. Devika could not **attribute** the result to luck alone.

Her cousin had practiced for weeks, revising the ending and rehearsing in front of increasingly large groups. A stack of contest programs rested beside the door.

She explained that the repeated rehearsals had helped her cousin control the pace and speak clearly under pressure. Those efforts, she believed, were the main reason the performance had been so effective.

Her uncle opened a program and found the story's title. He asked whether Devika wanted to enter next year, but she said she would first need to find a story she truly wanted to tell.

3. As used in this passage, what does "attribute" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A to explain which factor caused a result

B to give an object to someone as a gift

C to describe a quality someone possesses

D to identify the original creator of a work

Passage 4

Theo's group reached the campsite and discovered that one bag of tent poles had been left at home. A cold wind was beginning to move through the clearing.

The others placed their packs beside a fallen log. Theo knew that arguing about who had forgotten the bag would only **compound** their difficulty.

An argument would use the daylight they needed to find another shelter and make cooperation harder when everyone was already frustrated. He suggested checking the equipment together before deciding what could still be used.

His sister opened the largest pack and took out a folded tarp. They spread it on the ground, counted their remaining ropes and began planning a different place to sleep.

4. As used in this passage, what does "compound" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A solve a problem by working with others

B combine materials to make a useful mixture

C make a problem more serious than before

D separate a problem into smaller parts

Passage 5

The family had agreed to spend one afternoon exploring a town they had never visited. A map on the hotel desk listed a museum, a riverside walk and a crowded market.

Jules was drawn to the quiet galleries and the chance to examine unfamiliar objects, rather than to the noise of the busy market. That pull came from what interested him, not from anyone else's instructions.

He traced the routes with one finger.

His brother suggested that they begin together and separate after lunch if their interests differed. Jules folded the map carefully and put a small mark beside the museum entrance before they left. His first **inclination** was to visit the museum.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A the steepness of a surface

B a natural pull toward one choice

C a skill developed through repeated practice

D a requirement imposed by another person

Passage 6

Nadia and her father packed food for a long day of visiting relatives in several nearby towns. Nadia suggested that they **reserve** two sandwiches.

Their first stop was a picnic beside a small railway museum. They set the basket down in the shade of a tree while they looked for a table.

The two reserved sandwiches would stay wrapped in the basket until the evening journey, when the shops along their route might be closed. Eating every sandwich at the picnic would leave nothing for the final part of the day.

Her father handed her a pencil and the paper bag containing fruit. Together they made a list of what they had brought, then carried the basket to the picnic table.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A book a place for a particular person

B use everything immediately to avoid waste

C keep unused for a possible future need

D replace something that no longer works

Teacher use: ____ / 6