Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 8 · 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

The student council first proposed rebuilding every bench around the playground. A survey of materials and volunteer schedules showed that the project would take much longer than the remaining term. The revised proposal used supplies already in storage and required only the two afternoons the volunteers had available.

Members judged their revised three-bench plan **feasible**. It also included time for an adult to inspect each repair. The smaller project would not transform the entire playground, but it could be finished responsibly without promising resources the council did not possess.

Members submitted the new plan with an explanation of its boundaries. They saved the larger proposal so a future council could consider it again.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A practical with the resources at hand

B guaranteed to be everyone’s favorite choice

C already completed and fully tested

D more impressive than any competing idea

Passage 2

Lena wanted the club's fundraiser to pay for new art supplies, so the missing money made her stomach tighten. Before suggesting that someone had taken it, she decided to review the spreadsheet that she and Malik had prepared after the fair. Malik brought the envelope of receipts to their table.

She checked each entry against the receipt rather than accepting the final total. Halfway down the page, she found that one payment had been entered twice in the expenses column. Correcting the mistake made the figures agree, and Lena felt grateful that she had waited before accusing anyone.

They added a second-person check to their routine. Next time, one student would enter the amounts while another would **scrutinize** them against the original paperwork.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A discard something because it is unfamiliar

B summarize only the most obvious feature

C approve something without checking it

D examine something closely and critically

Passage 3

A classroom investigation compared seedlings grown in trays with different amounts of space. Students kept the light and watering schedule the same so that they could focus on crowding. Their report described excessive crowding as **detrimental** to growth under the conditions they tested.

Seedlings in the crowded trays developed weaker stems and fewer leaves than seedlings given more room. The class did not claim that every plant in every setting would respond identically. Instead, students described what their comparison showed and recommended repeating the investigation before drawing a broader conclusion.

The report included both the results and a diagram of the tray arrangement. Another class could use that information to examine the question with its own seedlings.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A unrelated to the result

B causing damage or an unwanted effect

C difficult to understand but harmless

D essential for achieving an improvement

Passage 4

Two groups returned from measuring the path with different totals, and Owen was sure one group must have been careless. Owen spread both maps across the floor. One group had measured the route to the front entrance, while the other had measured the shorter path to the side gate.

Their teacher had asked the class to **reconcile** the results before deciding that either group was wrong. Both groups had followed their own written directions correctly. Once the class noticed the different endpoints, the totals stopped looking like conflicting answers to exactly the same question.

Owen wrote the endpoints beside the measurements. The revised maps allowed visitors to compare the routes without assuming that one team had made a mistake.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A accept both accounts as accurate without checking them

B select the account that seems most believable

C bring apparently conflicting accounts into agreement

D alter the differing details until only one account remains

Passage 5

A school newspaper received a report that a community bus had arrived unusually late. The editor assigned two students to investigate the delay before the next edition appeared.

The students arranged their notes on a shared table. They hoped a log from the dispatch office would **corroborate** the passengers’ account without relying on people repeating one another’s descriptions.

The independently kept log matched the passengers’ reported arrival time. The document had been completed before the newspaper contacted the office, making it a separate source rather than a copy of the students’ interview notes.

The editor asked the students to explain how they had checked their information. They attached a timetable to the folder for the next meeting.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A make a claim seem more interesting

B give independent support for a claim

C explain why a source is unreliable

D replace an earlier account completely

Passage 6

Nora arrived at the rehearsal room carrying the costume box she had borrowed. The hallway smelled of fresh paint, and someone had stacked folding chairs beneath the bulletin board. A note beside the door asked her to bring ‘the blue one’ when she returned.

The box held both a blue scarf and a blue jacket, and either could fit the instruction. Nora could imagine arguments for choosing each object, but nothing in the note established which one the director needed.

She set the box on a bench and called the director rather than guessing; the **ambiguous** instruction had not identified which blue item he needed from the borrowed costume box. While the phone rang, she folded the tissue paper that had slipped onto the floor.

6. As used in this passage, what does “ambiguous” most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A not clear enough to have just one meaning

B difficult to read because of small lettering

C unnecessarily detailed

D deliberately inaccurate

Teacher use: ____ / 6