Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 8 · 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

A student committee evaluated how frequent interruptions affected a practice debate. Members used a trial session to compare the speakers' ability to finish their explanations.

The session took place in a classroom after lunch. The committee wanted to determine whether interruptions were **detrimental** to the kind of discussion the group hoped to encourage.

Whenever speakers were repeatedly interrupted, important explanations were cut off before listeners could follow the reasoning. Several students then answered points that had never been fully stated, making the conversation less useful for everyone taking part.

The committee recommended a signal for requesting a turn and a clear speaking order. It wrote the new procedures on a card for the next practice session.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A damaging to the desired outcome

B difficult to understand but harmless

C essential for achieving an improvement

D unrelated to the result

Passage 2

An archive project collected two accounts of a community celebration held many years earlier, along with a printed schedule of the day. One account described an afternoon event, while another described the celebration as happening at night.

The schedule showed an afternoon parade followed by an evening concert, so both descriptions referred to different parts of the celebration. The apparent disagreement disappeared once the researchers established which activity each writer had attended.

The student researchers arranged copies in a folder. The schedule had helped them **reconcile** the accounts before they prepared a summary for the archive.

Their summary included the full sequence rather than selecting one account and discarding the other. They returned the copies to the folder before the archive closed for the day.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A select the account that seems most believable

B alter the differing details until only one account remains

C explain how differing pieces of information fit together

D accept both accounts as accurate without checking them

Passage 3

A design workshop compared a small paper model with a full-size stage backdrop for a planned community performance. The instructor asked the class to recognize the **inherent** limitations of a small model.

The model helped the students discuss the arrangement before using their larger materials. The instructor had placed the two design plans side by side.

Even a correctly made model must leave out some features of the full-size object. For example, the paper version could suggest where an opening belonged without showing exactly how a heavy door would move or how its hinges would be attached.

Students listed the questions that still required a larger test. They stored the model on a shelf beside the workshop’s other planning materials.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A present only when someone makes a mistake

B caused only by a temporary condition

C added later to improve performance

D belonging to something by its very nature

Passage 4

A neighborhood association planned outdoor meetings in a courtyard near a busy street. Residents wanted a place where people could hear speakers without constantly raising their voices.

The association tested several seating arrangements on a Saturday morning. Its goal was to **mitigate** the traffic noise rather than pretend that the nearby street could be made silent.

Moving the chairs behind the existing wall made the sound less disruptive, although cars were still audible. The test did not justify promising quiet at every meeting, but it gave the organizers a practical improvement to include in their plan.

The volunteers drew the selected arrangement on a sheet of graph paper. They placed copies with the other courtyard documents in the association's storage cabinet.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A make a problem easier to hide

B accept a problem without responding

C make a harmful effect less serious

D remove every possible cause of a problem

Passage 5

A library committee considered several ways to offer a weekend reading event. Members compared room access, staffing schedules and the amount of money available for materials.

The committee met after the library closed on Tuesday. The selected schedule fit the hours, space and staff that the library could actually provide. Its activities used reusable supplies, and each session had an assigned adult who had confirmed availability before the announcement was prepared.

Members sent the completed schedule to the person designing the event flyer. They agreed to meet again after the first weekend to discuss visitors' comments. The committee had wanted a **feasible** arrangement that could be offered during the current term rather than a proposal dependent on uncertain future donations.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A guaranteed to be everyone's favorite choice

B able to be carried out in this situation

C already completed and fully tested

D more impressive than any competing idea

Passage 6

A student magazine accepts diagrams as well as written articles. Two editors planned to **scrutinize** a new diagram before deciding whether it was ready for readers.

Before a diagram appears in an issue, editors compare its labels with the information supplied by its creator. The latest submission arrived with a short explanation of how it had been made.

They checked every label, arrow and stated measurement against the accompanying explanation. Their work revealed an arrow pointing toward the wrong container, a detail that had escaped notice when the diagram was viewed quickly as a whole.

The creator received a list of specific questions and corrected the drawing. The magazine placed the final diagram beside an article about the school workshop.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A approve something without checking it

B summarize only the most obvious feature

C discard something because it is unfamiliar

D examine closely for possible weaknesses

Teacher use: ____ / 6