Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 8 · 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 field-study instructions identified the starting marker as **critical** to the class's comparison. Each group would measure the same stretch of path using a different method. A clear beginning and ending point mattered more than whether students preferred a particular kind of measuring tool.

Without a consistent starting point, the groups' measurements could not be compared fairly. One team might begin beside the gate while another began several steps farther along, producing a difference unrelated to the method being tested. The class therefore marked the location before collecting any measurements.

Students included a photograph of the marker with their written procedure. Another group could then repeat the comparison without having to guess where the original teams had begun.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A essential to the success of something

B expressing disapproval of someone's work

C included only to make a plan look complete

D likely to attract unfavorable attention

Passage 2

A committee reviewing library hours examined more than the number of evening visitors. If the library closed an hour earlier, students whose bus arrived at five would lose their only chance to visit after school. Committee members asked whether the change would prevent those readers from using the building at all.

One **implication** of the proposed schedule affected a small group that rarely appeared in the weekly totals. The schedule might still serve most visitors, but the committee needed to consider that consequence before recommending it. An average attendance figure did not reveal every effect of the proposal.

Members added a question about transportation to the visitor survey. They wanted the final recommendation to explain both the expected savings and the access concerns raised during the review.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A an exact quotation from an earlier source

B an unrelated event that happens nearby

C a result that may follow from a situation

D a direct instruction someone must obey

Passage 3

A school exhibition included projects that needed an electrical outlet and a table. Science club members requested the principal’s **sanction** for an additional student demonstration.

Students submitted descriptions before the display team assigned spaces in the gym. The exhibition would take place during the usual school day. The demonstration would occupy a table beside the club’s own exhibit.

The principal’s written approval allowed the demonstration to go ahead under the agreed arrangements. The club then confirmed who would supervise it and where visitors would stand while students explained their model.

The program designer received the demonstration’s final title that afternoon. Extra copies of the exhibition map were placed at the gym doors for visitors to collect.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A a punishment imposed for breaking a rule

B a detailed explanation of every planned activity

C a prediction about how popular an event will be

D authorization given by a responsible authority

Passage 4

A student research team announced promising results from a new sorting system. Its first summary suggested that the system would improve every future collection at the school.

The team's adviser read the summary during a planning meeting. She recommended adding information that would **temper** the claim before the class shared it with other groups.

The revised summary kept the positive result but acknowledged that only one small trial had been completed. It also explained that a different mixture of materials could produce different results, giving readers a reason to treat the broad prediction cautiously.

The team attached the trial procedure to its report. Members planned to discuss the next collection at their regular meeting on Thursday.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A moderate the force or intensity of something

B establish the exact temperature of an object

C make a conclusion sound completely certain

D lose control of one's anger

Passage 5

Every year the drama club introduced its production with the same spoken welcome. Jae knew the audience would expect a familiar announcement before the curtain rose. The cast wanted the beginning to catch visitors' attention without confusing them.

The group gathered around a piano after rehearsal. Jae suggested a **novel** introduction, and several students leaned forward to hear what he had imagined.

He proposed an audience scene unlike anything the club had tried before. Instead of announcing the play from the stage, the actors would let the opening conversation draw everyone into the story.

The director asked the cast to rehearse the idea before making a decision. Jae stayed behind to move the music stands back into the storage room.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A described in a long fictional book

B proven successful through many earlier uses

C original compared with familiar methods

D more complicated than anyone can understand

Passage 6

Mara and I had worked on several projects together before we joined the newspaper staff. Mara's patient **disposition** made me grateful to have her as a partner again.

I knew how carefully she kept her notes and how much she disliked rushing. The editor assigned us a difficult interview for the next issue.

Across many projects, she responded to delays by calmly finding another useful task instead of snapping at people. When our interview began late, I recognized the same familiar steadiness in the way she greeted our guest and arranged her questions.

We compared our notes after the interview and selected quotations for the article. Mara returned the borrowed recorder to the office before we left for the day.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A an arrangement of objects in a space

B a person's usual manner of responding

C a sudden feeling that disappears immediately

D a formal decision about ownership

Teacher use: ____ / 6