Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 8 · Shades of meaning · Try 2

Name or code _____ Date _____

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

Passage 1

When the committee rejected my proposal, I wrote a response before I had even put away my notes. I asked my sister to read it while I walked around the kitchen.

After we talked, I rewrote it. My revised version stated my objections calmly and considered the committee's reasons instead of accusing its members of bad intentions. I had not abandoned my argument, but I was no longer letting the first surge of anger determine every sentence.

We compared the replies beside the fruit bowl. My **measured** version still made my disagreement with the committee clear.

I sent the revised message and saved the earlier version in my notebook as a reminder. My sister returned the borrowed pen to the drawer beside the sink.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A uncertain because no opinion has been formed

B dramatic in order to intensify the disagreement

C deliberate and restrained in tone or action

D exact in length because it was checked with a ruler

Passage 2

Leo wanted the town archive to include interviews with people who had worked at the old community theater. His teacher described his **tenacious** approach while looking over the folder he brought to their meeting.

He made a list of possible contacts during the winter term. By spring, several interview plans had fallen through.

He kept pursuing the interviews after repeated cancellations, changing his arrangements without giving up the project. When an in-person visit became impossible, he asked whether a telephone conversation or written response would allow the person to participate instead.

The folder eventually contained several accounts the archive had not collected before. Leo placed the interview permissions in a separate envelope before returning the materials to the librarian.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A continuing blindly without considering new information

B refusing a task before making any attempt

C succeeding easily because no obstacles arise

D holding firmly to a purpose despite setbacks

Passage 3

Our group opened its project folder and discovered that several sketches were missing. Everyone searched the table before beginning the afternoon’s meeting in the art room.

Kai looked toward the cabinet where the folder had been stored. His next comment contained an **insinuation** that made Lena close her notebook.

He hinted that Lena hid the drawings to get her own design chosen, without accusing her openly. The remark invited the group to suspect her motives while allowing Kai to avoid stating a clear accusation or explaining what evidence supported it.

Lena asked him to describe exactly what he believed had happened before the discussion continued. The group moved the remaining drawings to the center of the table.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A announcing a proven fact in a neutral manner

B indirectly suggesting something unfavorable

C offering direct praise with clear supporting reasons

D asking a straightforward question without implying an answer

Passage 4

A student survey asked exhibition visitors which parts of a display helped them understand the topic. The organizing group published a summary after reviewing the responses.

The writers openly acknowledged that several labels had confused visitors and explained which sections needed revision. They included favorable comments as well, but they did not hide the difficulties merely because their own group had created the exhibition.

The summary appeared beside photographs of the completed display. Printed copies were placed with the exhibition materials in the library.

The summary ended with a schedule for revising the labels before the next event. It offered a **candid** account of the event rather than treating the project as successful in every respect.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A frank about problems instead of concealing them

B confident despite having no relevant information

C carefully vague to avoid revealing an opinion

D deliberately cruel to the person being addressed

Passage 5

I brought my completed diagram to the group meeting and waited while everyone found a place at the table. Julian’s **condescending** comment made me wish he had simply asked a question about the layout.

Julian had offered to help prepare the final display and had held my diagram beside the other submissions.

He praised me for understanding a basic idea in the same exaggerated tone someone might use with a much younger child. The comment suggested that he expected very little of my ability, even though my diagram met the same requirements as the work he had praised without surprise.

I asked him to discuss the diagram’s actual features rather than his assumptions about me. We returned the submissions to their folders after the meeting.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A patiently giving help that someone has requested

B acting superior toward someone regarded as inferior

C expressing gratitude for another person’s experience

D speaking cautiously because the answer is uncertain

Passage 6

Nessa and her brother argued after he borrowed her drawing materials without asking. She put the remaining supplies in a box and carried it into her room.

The next morning, she looked at the model her brother had spent the weekend building for an exhibition. She considered a response she later described as **vindictive**.

She wanted to damage his model so that he would suffer a loss in return for upsetting her. Her plan would not recover the missing supplies or explain why permission mattered; it would simply make him experience a hurt of his own.

She finally left the model untouched and wrote down what she needed him to replace. The exhibition notice remained on the refrigerator beside the family calendar.

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

Circle ONE letter.

A willing to forgive a misunderstanding quickly

B careful to protect others from future harm

C determined to apply a fair rule consistently

D seeking revenge for a real or imagined wrong

Teacher use: ____ / 6