Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 8 · Word parts · Try 1

Name or code _____ Date _____

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

Passage 1

The exhibition guide described the assistant coordinator as **subordinate** to the project coordinator. The assistant could organize supplies, but final decisions still required the coordinator's approval. This arrangement identified responsibility without suggesting that the assistant's work was unimportant or unskilled.

Students asked why the guide needed to describe the relationship at all. The organizer explained that clear responsibilities help people know where to take questions and who must approve changes affecting the entire event. Without that information, several volunteers might assume they each had permission to make incompatible decisions.

The class revised its own committee chart after reading the guide. Members included both the tasks each position performed and the decisions that position could authorize.

1. Using the prefix sub- (meaning under) and the passage, what does "subordinate" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A completely independent of anyone else

B located beneath the ground

C less valuable as a person

D under another person's authority

Passage 2

A committee examined changes to the school's activity schedule. The proposal affected transportation, staffing, access to rooms and the time available for family activities. A change that solved one difficulty could create another, so the group needed more than a simple vote about preferred hours. Members collected comments from people who used the schedule in different ways.

The committee characterized the question as **multifaceted**. Members grouped the concerns without assuming that the largest group's experience represented everyone. Their report explained how several connected considerations shaped the decision, including practical arrangements that students might not notice during an ordinary afternoon.

The committee ultimately recommended a trial schedule with a planned review date. It wanted to observe how the arrangement worked across those different aspects before making a lasting decision.

2. Using the prefix multi- (meaning many) and the base facet (meaning aspect) and the passage, what does "multifaceted" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A having several connected dimensions

B appearing different only because of lighting

C limited to one simple cause

D having no clear connection to any other topic

Passage 3

The application screen asked Amira to confirm her choice, warning that the final button would commit her to the selection. Once she confirmed the selection, the rules would not allow her to change it. She moved her hand away from the keyboard and read the descriptions one more time.

Her friend urged her to hurry, but Amira wanted to understand what she was agreeing to. She had enough time to check the schedule and discuss the options with an adult. The warning made that careful reading worthwhile, even though the screen itself looked like many less important forms she completed every day.

She understood why the rules described a confirmed selection as **irrevocable**. She finally made the choice and saved the confirmation. She was ready to proceed because she understood both the opportunity and the commitment.

3. Using the prefix ir- (meaning not) and revoke (meaning take back) and the passage, what does "irrevocable" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A not yet considered by the responsible group

B difficult to explain clearly to other people

C likely to change as soon as circumstances improve

D unable to be withdrawn or reversed

Passage 4

A study group wanted to stay focused, so it introduced a rule requiring someone to announce the remaining time every two minutes. The students soon found that the rule was **counterproductive**. Constant reminders interrupted students so frequently that they completed less work than before.

The problem was not that time awareness never helped. The group had chosen a method whose effects conflicted with the purpose it was supposed to serve. Students replaced the announcements with a visible clock and agreed to discuss progress at a natural stopping point instead of breaking concentration repeatedly.

At the next meeting, the group compared how the two arrangements affected its work. Members kept the approach that supported their goal rather than defending the first rule simply because they had proposed it.

4. Using the prefix counter- (meaning against) and the base productive and the passage, what does "counterproductive" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A requiring more effort than originally expected

B working against the result someone wants

C producing a smaller benefit than hoped

D opposing another person's preference

Passage 5

I had spent the morning arranging every brush by size before the art workshop began. My brother's way of working seemed the **antithesis** of mine, although we had volunteered for the same mural.

My brother had arrived carrying a box in which pencils, string and paint tubes were mixed together. We placed our supplies on neighboring tables.

I planned each step; he experimented without a plan. He wanted to discover the final image by trying the materials. Our approaches pointed in opposite directions, and I initially wondered how we could share a project without arguing about everything.

We agreed to sketch two small studies before touching the large wall. At the end of the morning, we washed the brushes in the utility sink.

5. Using the prefix anti- (meaning against or opposite) and the passage, what does "antithesis" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A a statement offered as supporting evidence

B a minor variation on the same idea

C a complete contrast to something else

D a compromise combining both approaches

Passage 6

A student editorial board considered publishing an unsigned message about a disagreement at school. The message had arrived through a suggestion box in the library.

The board discussed the submission at its weekly meeting. Members checked the account, considered the possible harm of errors and asked how the people mentioned could respond. Members agreed that this **circumspect** response was necessary before any part of the message appeared in the newspaper.

That process took longer than printing the message immediately, but it allowed the editors to consider consequences before making a decision.

The board prepared a list of questions for its adviser and stored the original submission. It would return to the issue at the next scheduled meeting.

6. Using circum- (meaning around) and spect (meaning look) and the passage, what does "circumspect" most likely mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A unwilling to consider any possible change

B cautious and attentive to consequences

C confident that no risk could exist

D interested only in what nearby people are doing

Teacher use: ____ / 6