Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 9 · 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 guide described several possible routes through a community exhibition. Its first version jumped from the last display to the entrance, then returned to a question raised midway through the visit.

The editor rebuilt it as a **coherent** guide. The order now followed the visitor’s movement, and linking sentences explained how each display developed a question raised by the one before it. Clear organization did not require pretending that every display gave the same answer.

The connections allowed readers to understand the account as a whole. A visitor could see why a source appeared where it did, rather than treat each paragraph as an unrelated instruction.

At the entrance, students tested the revised sheet by following it without additional explanation. They marked the places where they still had to stop and ask what the guide expected them to do next.

1. Which phrase best replaces “coherent” without changing the meaning?

Circle ONE letter.

A simple because it removes all competing interpretations

B connected so the whole account can be understood clearly

C complete because it includes every detail that was collected

D persuasive mainly because the speaker sounds confident

Passage 2

The class compared attendance during an ordinary week with attendance during a nearby festival. The festival brought additional visitors to the community studio, but its program lasted only several days.

The coordinator described the increase as **transient**. It reflected a temporary event rather than evidence that the usual number of regular participants had permanently changed. Planning a much larger weekly program from those few days would treat a short-lived condition as an enduring one.

The extra attendance passed when the festival ended. That did not make the visitors unimportant; it changed what their numbers could reasonably establish about the studio's continuing needs.

The report displayed the festival dates above the attendance graph. A reader comparing the unusually tall columns with later entries could see which period required a special explanation before using the figures to plan the following term.

2. As used in this passage, what does "transient" most nearly mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A returning at the same time in an unchanging cycle

B invisible until a special instrument makes it noticeable

C permanent because its first effects are difficult to undo

D temporary rather than a settled or enduring condition

Passage 3

The neighborhood archive began as a cupboard of donated photographs. Volunteers wanted to create an exhibition, but they could not agree on how to organize objects from so many unrelated lives. An interview with a former delivery worker became **pivotal**. Her account connected several photographs to one shared route through the town. That link gave the volunteers a structure they had not previously considered.

After the interview, the team began arranging everything by route. Instead of arranging the photographs only by date, they could follow the route and examine how different people used the same streets. Other questions remained, but the project now had a workable organizing idea.

On the gallery floor, a volunteer marked the route in removable tape. Photographs still in their protective sleeves lay beside each turn, waiting for captions that would connect the separate doors and windows to the people behind them.

3. Which meaning of "pivotal" best fits this passage?

Circle ONE letter.

A interesting mainly as a detail unrelated to the outcome

B final because it removes the possibility of further decisions

C important because it changes what happens afterward

D noticeable because it occurs before every other event

Passage 4

My brother put the cracked stool between us on the porch. I would soon have to **concede** that my first repair plan would not address the damage. I had insisted that we could repair it without asking anyone for help.

“Then explain this,” he said, pressing the seat until the hidden joint opened. I could see the split extend farther than I had expected.

I admitted that his objection was valid after resisting it. That did not mean I had stopped wanting to save the stool. It meant we needed advice about the joint before choosing the materials or putting anyone’s weight on it.

He set the stool upright again and handed me the loose brace. I carried it toward the workshop, keeping my thumb over the splintered edge while he went to find our aunt.

4. As used in this passage, what does “concede” most nearly mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A admit that an opposing point has merit

B avoid answering a challenge by changing the topic

C prove that an opponent has misunderstood the evidence

D agree to every demand made by the other side

Passage 5

The seating chart came back with pencil marks along every edge. I had spent two evenings arranging the names and felt the eraser wearing thin beneath my fingers.

“Keep this version until the final numbers arrive,” the organizer said. My chart was **provisional**, not wasted. The room could be prepared from it, but late confirmations might still require another arrangement.

I left spaces for names that had not yet been confirmed. The chart could guide the room setup while remaining easy to change when the final numbers arrived. I pinned the chart to a board with a box of spare name cards beneath it. Before leaving, I wrote the date in one corner and put the remaining pencil beside the pins for whoever made the next change.

5. As used in this passage, what does “provisional” most nearly mean?

Circle ONE letter.

A confidential because only one person may know the result

B settled permanently because all relevant checks are complete

C temporary and open to replacement after further checking

D rejected before anyone has examined the supporting material

Passage 6

My cousin remembered a painted sign above the closed shop, but I could not find it in any family photograph. I kept tapping the empty edge of the album where a useful picture should have been.

“Ask the people next door,” my aunt suggested. An old neighbor’s account might **corroborate** my cousin’s memory without simply borrowing the same story from us.

A separate witness described the same lettering before hearing our account. His description matched the unusual shape my cousin had drawn. It did not establish every detail about the shop, but it gave the remembered sign independent support.

I turned the album toward him and left the drawing covered until he finished. Beside the empty space, I wrote where the new account came from and the date when we had heard it.

6. Which meaning of “corroborate” best fits this passage?

Circle ONE letter.

A repeat a claim using information copied from that claim

B make an account sound more appealing to its audience

C replace every part of an account with a new explanation

D strengthen an account with evidence from another source

Teacher use: ____ / 6