Vocabulary Skill Check

Grade 9 · Shades of meaning · Try 1

Name or code _____ Date _____

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

Passage 1

The room booking disappeared from the calendar two days before our exhibition. I stared at the blank space until the coordinator turned the sheet toward the window to check it.

“We still have the work,” my partner said. Our group proved **resilient** when the original arrangement failed. We found a smaller room, changed the display order and protected the interviews that mattered most.

We recovered by adapting instead of pretending nothing had happened. The lost space cost us part of the exhibition, but it did not make the remaining work disappear or require us to abandon the event.

I carried the longest display board back to storage and returned with two smaller stands. My partner held the door while visitors began arriving at the room we had learned to use that morning.

1. What effect does the word “resilient” have on the description?

Circle ONE letter.

A praises the capacity to recover and adapt after disruption

B portrays an ability to avoid every setback before it occurs

C praises loyalty to an unchanged plan despite clear failure

D suggests that disappointment has no effect on anyone involved

Passage 2

The folded invitation caught on the loose lining of my coat. I read the rehearsal date again while waiting outside the community hall.

“So you are definitely joining us?” the director asked. I gave a **tentative** answer because the final rehearsal might conflict with my weekend job. I wanted the part, but I could not promise time that belonged to someone else’s schedule.

My answer could change once the work schedule was confirmed. Until then, I asked the director to keep another performer available rather than build the production around an uncertain commitment.

She penciled my name lightly into the list beside the stage door. I left with the script under my arm and a note to speak with the manager before my next shift began.

2. What does the writer’s description “tentative” suggest about the attitude or approach shown?

Circle ONE letter.

A suggests that the proposal has already been rejected

B implies that every practical difficulty has been settled

C presents uncertainty as a complete lack of preparation

D shows a choice that remains subject to revision

Passage 3

A narrow strip of tape marked the judging table’s edge. I pressed my thumbnail against it while our team waited for the design results. “My cousin helped build that one,” the judge said quietly. She asked another judge to assess it so that her own connection would not shape the score. The coach later called the process **impartial**.

Each design was assessed against the same published criteria. Friendship, experience and the size of a team’s audience did not earn points. Although our structure received a lower score, we could trace the result to its unstable joint.

I peeled my thumbnail from the tape and carried the score sheet back. Beside our model, I circled the joint that had shifted and asked my partner whether we could test a different fastening after lunch.

3. What does the writer’s description “impartial” suggest about the attitude or approach shown?

Circle ONE letter.

A portrays a judge who avoids learning about either side

B suggests loyalty to the group with the strongest reputation

C suggests judging each side by the same standard

D implies a decision made without concern for its effects

Passage 4

The folded program hid the corner of my drawing at rehearsal. I had proposed a stage with audience seats on three sides, unlike our usual row of chairs.

The technician studied my drawing. She did not tell me to throw it away. She explained what our usual layout allowed us to do with the lamps already fitted above the stage. It followed the arrangement used in our previous productions. The audience would face one direction, and actors could rely on entrances and sight lines they already knew. My plan needed different solutions to those practical questions.

“The **conventional** arrangement is easier to light,” she finished. I unfolded the drawing and placed a lamp symbol beside each entrance. The technician pulled up a chair and asked me to show where the nearest audience member would sit.

4. What effect does the word “conventional” have on the description?

Circle ONE letter.

A describes a rule that permits no reasonable exceptions

B describes an approach that follows accepted practice

C presents a method as useless merely because it is old

D suggests an approach that has not previously been tried

Passage 5

The curator held my exhibition label beneath the desk lamp. I rubbed a pencil mark from my wrist while she read the sentence I had considered finished.

“Where does this date come from?” she asked. My neat paragraph was under **scrutiny**. She compared each claim with the interview notes, pausing whenever my wording sounded more certain than the source.

She examined the details instead of trusting the polished wording. Her questions did not mean she wanted the label to fail. They showed where a visitor might reasonably ask for support I had forgotten to include.

I opened the folder and placed the dated letter beside the interview sheet. She moved the lamp between us, and I found a narrow space below the sentence for the source reference.

5. What does the writer’s description “scrutiny” suggest about the attitude or approach shown?

Circle ONE letter.

A presents a brief glance as enough to settle every question

B implies that the work has already been condemned

C suggests interest based only on the work’s appearance

D suggests careful attention to details before acceptance

Passage 6

The route map shook in my hand when we reached the closed footbridge. I had promised my younger cousin a view from the far bank before our ride home.

“We can be annoyed after we check the alternatives,” my aunt said. She asked which path remained open and how long it would take.

She stayed calm while dealing with the problem directly. The walk mattered to her too, but she chose questions that could produce a useful answer instead of repeating what had gone wrong.

Her **measured** response stopped me from turning disappointment into an argument with the volunteer beside the sign. I folded the map along the new route and put it inside my coat. My cousin moved beside my aunt to see the marked path, leaving room for the next family to approach the sign.

6. What does the writer’s description “measured” suggest about the attitude or approach shown?

Circle ONE letter.

A suggests anger released without considering its likely effects

B suggests deliberate restraint rather than lack of concern

C implies that a person is unable to decide what matters

D portrays calmness as proof that nothing important is at stake

Teacher use: ____ / 6