Chapter 5

Question Type 3: Sentence Equivalence

This chapter contains three sets of practice Sentence Equivalence questions. The sets are arranged in order of increasing difficulty, one easy, one medium, and one hard.

The answer key and the explanations for the answers for chapter 5 are in the separate book titled “GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS® Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions, Volume 1. Large Print (18 point) Edition. Chapter 5 – Sentence Equivalence Questions Answer Key with Answers and Explanations.”

Sharpen your GRE Verbal Reasoning skills by working your way through these question sets, remembering to use the Tips for Answering given in Chapter 2. Begin with the easy set and then move on to the medium-difficulty and hard sets. Review the answer
explanations carefully, paying particular attention to the explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly. Were you able to

• understand the overall meaning of the passage?
• identify significant words in the passage?
• think up your own words for the blanks?
• identify suitable matching words to fill the blanks?

Turn the page to begin.
Set 1. Easy

Directions for questions 1 to 5:

Each of the following questions includes a sentence with a blank indicating that something has been omitted. Following the sentence will be a list of six words or phrases, each of which could be used to complete the sentence. Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.
1. Retrofitted with stabilizing devices, some of which _______ its aesthetics, the bridge has been reopened, no longer prone to excessive swaying but not quite the breathtaking structure it originally was.

A  impair  
B  resist  
C  improve  
D  enhance  
E  restore  
F  compromise
2. Although cosmic objects have struck Earth since the planet’s very formation, humanity has only recently become aware of these events: two centuries ago the idea that objects orbiting the Sun could collide with Earth was widely ________.

A  ridiculed
B  doubted
C  disseminated
D  promulgated
E  marginalized
F  disbelieved
3. That people _______ the musical features of birdsongs suggests that despite the vast evolutionary gulf between birds and mammals, songbirds and humans share some common auditory perceptual abilities.

A  mimic
B  recognize
C  relish
D  are confounded by
E  can make out
F  are puzzled by
4. Torpey’s study has turned a seemingly ________ topic, the passport, into a fascinating one by making an original contribution to the sociology of the state.

A  ironic  
B  banal  
C  provocative  
D  witty  
E  insipid  
F  stimulating
5. Britain is attractive to worldwide advertisers because it is ________ market, so there is no need to tailor advertisements for different parts of the country.

A  a global  
B  an uncomplicated  
C  a vast  
D  a homogeneous  
E  a uniform  
F  an immense
Set 2. Medium Difficulty

Directions for questions 1 to 8:

Each of the following questions includes a sentence with a blank indicating that something has been omitted. Following the sentence will be a list of six words or phrases, each of which could be used to complete the sentence. Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.
1. The band’s long-standing strategy of laying leisurely explorations atop a steady funk beat has proven to be surprisingly ________: a concert in Cologne from 1972 sounds as if it could have taken place today.

A fortuitous
B foresighted
C prescient
D popular
E serendipitous
F lucrative
2. Factory production made an absence of imperfections so blandly commonplace that the _______ of hand-produced goods were now cherished where they once might have been shunned.

A  advantages
B  revivals
C  benefits
D  pretensions
E  blemishes
F  defects
3. Through its state associations, the American Medical Association controlled who could become a physician and dominated _______ professions like nursing and occupational therapy.

A commensurate
B proportionate
C kindred
D affiliated
E imperative
F voluntary
4. In a strong indication of the way the entire party is ______ the candidate with moderate credentials, the outspokenly conservative former mayor of a major city has promised to raise a substantial amount of money for the candidate’s campaign.

A  rallying behind
B  incensed over
C  undecided about
D  mortified over
E  embarrassed about
F  coalescing around
5. Mr. Hirsch says he will aim to preserve the foundation’s support of _______ thinkers, individuals who are going against the trends in a field or an acknowledged set of opinions.

A  iconoclastic
B  integrative
C  doctrinaire
D  heterodox
E  dogmatic
F  synthesizing
6. In France cultural subsidies are ________: producers of just about any film can get an advance from the government against box-office receipts, even though most such loans are never fully repaid.

A. ubiquitous
B. invaluable
C. sporadic
D. scanty
E. questionable
F. omnipresent
7. The problem of avoiding duplicate names—such as for Internet domain names or for e-mail accounts—is particularly _______ when the name has to fit into a format that allows only a finite number of possibilities.

A  meager
B  acute
C  agreeable
D  severe
E  beneficial
F  productive
8. At nearly 450 pages, the novel is _______: the author does not often resist the temptation to finish off a chapter, section, or even paragraph with some unnecessary flourish.

A  instructive
B  complex
C  prolix
D  educational
E  long-winded
F  explicit
Set 3. Hard

Directions for questions 1 to 7:

Each of the following questions includes a sentence with a blank indicating that something has been omitted. Following the sentence will be a list of six words or phrases, each of which could be used to complete the sentence. Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.
1. If researchers can determine exactly what is wrong with people who suffer from this condition, they may be able to suggest drug therapies or other treatments that could _______ the effects of the damage.

A  mitigate
B  exacerbate
C  specify
D  identify
E  ameliorate
F  stabilize
2. Some analysts worry about consumers’ perception that the electronics industry is always on the verge of major breakthroughs; that perception could hurt the industry by making consumers reluctant to buy products they believe will soon be ________.

A  incompatible
B  devalued
C  obsolete
D  ubiquitous
E  everywhere
F  outmoded
3. After people began to make the transition from gathering food to producing food, human societies followed markedly _______ courses; some adopted herding, others took to tillage, and still others stuck to foraging.

A  divergent  
B  rural  
C  novel  
D  unfamiliar  
E  disparate  
F  quotidian
4. In The Simple Soybean, the author is much less restrained in his enthusiasm for the bean’s medical efficacy than he is in his technical writings, but he still cautions against treating soy as a ________.

A staple
B supplement
C herald
D panacea
E cure-all
F harbinger
5. Parkin’s characterization of the movement as neoscholastic is too _______ to be accepted without further investigation.

A  cursory  
B  detailed  
C  perfunctory  
D  biased  
E  self-evident  
F  complete
6. A recent study suggests that vitamin E supplements, despite widespread belief in their ________, are no better than sugar pills for delaying the onset of the degenerative disease.

A  potential  
B  misuse  
C  popularity  
D  efficacy  
E  prevalence  
F  usefulness  

-25-
7. Despite her relaxed and flexible style, Ms. de la Fressange is _______ businesswoman who knows how to market her brand: herself.

A  a ruthless  
B  a creative  
C  a canny  
D  an industrious  
E  a shrewd  
F  an effective

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