NO TEST MATERIAL ON THIS PAGE
Chapter 6
Mixed Practice Sets

This chapter contains three practice sets of 25 questions. Each Practice Set is in two separate books – one containing the questions, and the other containing the answer key and the explanations for the questions. The books for each of the three practice sets are as follows:

Mixed Practice Set 1
The questions for Mixed Practice Set 1 are in this book. The answer key and the explanations are in the separate book titled “GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS® Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions, Volume 1. Large Print (18 point) Edition. Chapter 6 – Mixed Practice Sets Answer Key with Answers and Explanations For Practice Set 1.”

Mixed Practice Set 2

Mixed Practice Set 3
Each of the Mixed Practice Sets in this chapter has 25 questions, with a mixture of content and question types. In each set, the questions contain a representative mixture of all three question types: Reading Comprehension, Text Completion, and Sentence Equivalence. Review the answers and explanations carefully, paying particular attention to explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly.

Note that each set of 25 practice questions has about the same number of questions of each type as the individual Verbal Reasoning sections in the paper-based GRE revised General Test, with 25 questions per 35-minute (Standard Time) section. Therefore, to help you gauge the timed aspect of the Verbal Reasoning measure, it may be useful to set aside a 35-minute block of time for each set of 25 questions, if you are taking the test under standard timing conditions; approximately a 52-minute block of time if you are taking the test with 50 percent extended time, and a 70-minute block of time if you are taking the test with 100 percent extended time.
Directions for questions 1 to 3:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with a blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Select the entry that best fits the corresponding blank in the text.

1. The name of the Sloane Matthew Library has long been _______; even longtime city residents assume it is a run-of-the-mill library, never suspecting what art treasures it contains.

   A  revered
   B  proposed
   C  misleading
   D  elevated
   E  intriguing
2. Although economic growth has conventionally been viewed as the _______ for poverty in underdeveloped regions, this prescription’s negative environmental side effects are becoming a concern.

A  culprit
B  recipe
C  panacea
D  explanation
E  refuge
3. Even as the economy struggled, the secretary stood by his _______ long-term outlook, saying that technology was allowing businesses to make deep-rooted improvements in their productivity, the best indicator of an economy’s ability to grow.

A arcane
B sanguine
C equivocal
D ambivalent
E irresolute
Directions for questions 4 to 8:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with two or three blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

4. The villas and compounds that proliferated during the building boom of the 1990s were (i) ________, far too (ii) ________ for people of average means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blank (i)</th>
<th>Blank (ii)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A opulent</td>
<td>D bucolic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B eclectic</td>
<td>E expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C enigmatic</td>
<td>F mundane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. The governor has considerable political talents, but as a speaker he is far less (i) _______ than his opponent, whose oratorical skills are (ii) _______.

Blank (i)  | Blank (ii)
---|---
A adroit | D unpretentious
B unconvincing | E spurious
C prolix | F breathtaking
There is no point in combing through the director’s work for hints of ideological significance. It is unnecessary: his ideology—Marxist, anti-imperialist, aligned with the perceived interests of the powerless and the marginal—is the (i) _______ of his films. The clarity and force of that ideology are considerable, but its (ii) _______ sometimes bothers critics, who often scold the director for lacking (iii) _______.

Blank (i)  |  Blank (ii)  |  Blank (iii)
---|---|---
A hidden focus  |  D bluntness  |  G lucidity
B chief impetus  |  E obscurity  |  H subtlety
C murky lesson  |  F feebleness  |  I courage
7. As the finances of the energy-trading firm began unraveling, what eventually became (i) ________ was that the company had been concocting “value” out of thin air, thanks not to the trading strategies it promoted as visionary but to financial (ii) ________ that turned a once-solid entity into the most notorious (iii) ________ in an era of corporate scandals.

Blank (i)  |  Blank (ii)  |  Blank (iii)
--- | --- | ---
A vindicated | D redemption | G omission
B unmistakable | E responsibilities | H boon
C unverifiable | F games | I debacle
8. Kept (i) _______ by cloying commercial radio and clueless record executives, the American popular music scene has frequently depended on cities at the edges of the cultural map to provide a much-needed shot of (ii) _______. The momentary (iii) _______ what the next big thing is seems to come out of nowhere—as if someone blows a whistle only those in the know can hear, and suddenly record executives and journalists are crawling all over what had previously been an obscure locale.

Blank (i)  Blank (ii)  Blank (iii)

A  hidebound  D  originality  G  consensus about
B  liberated  E  truth  H  indifference to
C  obligated  F  orthodoxy  I  guarantee of
Questions 9 and 10 are based on the following passage:

Despite hypotheses ranging from armed conflict to climate change, the abandonment of more than 600 Pueblo cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde by A.D. 1300 still puzzles archaeologists. Researchers analyzing refuse from one Pueblo community found remains of maize—a Pueblo crop—in 44 percent of samples from years when the community flourished, but in only 10 percent of samples from years near the time of depopulation, while the remains of wild plants increased significantly.

Bones found in the samples showed that the consumption of domesticated turkeys—which were fed maize—decreased from 55 to 14 percent, while there was a marked increase in wild-animal bones.

These data suggest that near the end of the site’s occupation, villagers experienced substantial food shortages and adopted hunting-and-gathering strategies to compensate for crop failure.
9. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

According to the passage, which of the following is likely true regarding the consumption of wild plants in the Pueblo community investigated by researchers?

A It decreased dramatically as the settlement began to decline.
B It significantly affected the food supply of wild animals living nearby.
C It increased as domesticated sources of food declined.
D It represented a continuation of centuries-old traditions.
E It fell markedly as the consumption of wild animals increased.
10. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The research described in the passage most clearly supports which of the following claims about the abandonment of Mesa Verde?

A) It likely resulted from factors affecting crop viability.
B) It was more extensive than had previously been documented.
C) It may have been hastened by the abundance of wild animals in the area.
D) It has been misdated by previous archaeological research.
E) It happened more rapidly in certain Pueblo communities than in others.
Questions 11 and 12 are based on the following passage. (A word is underlined and boldfaced in line 4 for reference in answering question 12.)

Although it is intuitively clear that an increase in antipredator behavior lowers an animal’s risk of predation when predators are present, such benefits are not easily demonstrated. One study that did so found that well-fed guppies are more alert for predators and are consequently less likely to be killed than are their hungry counterparts, which feed with greater intensity. It is also well documented that a decrease in activity lowers an animal’s risk of predation by reducing the probability of being detected or encountered by a predator. This effect was convincingly demonstrated by a study in which it was found that partially anesthetized tadpoles were less likely to be captured by dragonfly larvae than were unanesthetized tadpoles.
11. Consider each of the following choices separately and select all that apply.

It can be inferred that the guppy study and the tadpole study, as they are described in the passage, differed in which of the following ways?

A The animals less likely to become the victims of predators were the more active ones in the guppy study but were the less active ones in the tadpole study.

B The animals less likely to become the victims of predators were those more alert to their surroundings in the guppy study but were the less alert ones in the tadpole study.

C The situation created experimentally for the guppy study would be more likely to occur in the wild than would the situation created for the tadpole study.
12. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The word “demonstrated” is shown underlined and boldfaced in the first sentence (line 4) of the passage. In the context in which it appears, “demonstrated” most nearly means

A  explained
B  presented
C  shown
D  protested
E  justified
Questions 13 and 14 are based on the following passage. (A word is underlined and boldfaced in line 1 for reference in answering question 13. A sentence is underlined and boldfaced in lines 14-18 for reference in answering question 14.)

Since the 1980s, experts have been claiming that the skill demands of today’s jobs have outstripped the skills workers possess. Moss and Tilly counter that worker deficiencies lie less in job-specific skills than in such attributes as motivation, interpersonal skills, and appropriate work demeanor. However, Handel suggests that these perceived deficiencies are merely an age effect, arguing that workers pass through a phase of early adulthood characterized by weak attachment to their jobs. As they mature, workers grow out of casual work attitudes and adjust to the workplace norms of jobs that they are more interested in retaining. Significantly, complaints regarding younger workers have persisted for over two decades, but similar complaints regarding older workers have not grown as the earlier cohorts aged.
13. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The word “experts” is underlined and boldfaced in the first sentence of the passage (line 1). The passage suggests that Moss and Tilly are most likely to disagree with the “experts” about which of the following?

A  Whether the skills demanded by jobs in the labor market have changed since the 1980s
B  Whether employers think that job-specific skills are as important as such attributes as motivation and appropriate work demeanor
C  Whether workers in today’s labor market generally live up to the standards and expectations of employers
D  Whether adequate numbers of workers in the labor market possess the particular skills demanded by various different jobs
E  Whether most workers are motivated to acquire new skills that are demanded by the labor market
14. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The sentence “Significantly, complaints regarding younger workers have persisted for over two decades, but similar complaints regarding older workers have not grown as the earlier cohorts aged.” appears at the end of the passage where it is shown underlined and boldfaced. That sentence serves primarily to

A suggest that worker deficiencies are likely to become more pronounced in the future
B introduce facts that Handel may have failed to take into account
C cite evidence supporting Handel’s argument about workers
D show that the worker deficiencies cited by Handel are more than an age effect
E distinguish certain skills more commonly possessed by young workers from skills more commonly found among mature workers
Directions for questions 15 through 19:

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.

15. Family photos of the author suggest that she was ______ child: she seemed to wear a permanent frown.

A  a sullen
B  an amiable
C  a surly
D  a beautiful
E  a prudent
F  a stunning
16. Biologists agree that snakes descended from lizards, but exactly where this first happened has been a matter of debate since the 1800s, when two ________ theories emerged.

A complex
B competing
C dubious
D conclusive
E contending
F irrefutable
17. A particular bacterium that has never encountered a particular virus will usually succumb to it, a ________ that may, surprisingly, be beneficial to the colony in which the bacterium lives.

A  susceptibility
B  theory
C  characteristic
D  juxtaposition
E  collision
F  hypothesis
18. The remarkable thing about the mayoral race, in retrospect, is that so many people wanted the job of managing a municipality so obviously about to _______.

A materialize  
B disintegrate  
C crumble  
D prosper  
E flourish  
F scuffle
19. It is a testimony to Roth’s _______ that he could not quite bring himself to write a book as dull and flat as his original conception for his novel Everyman seemed to demand.

A persistence
B deterioration
C talent
D ambition
E decline
F genius
Questions 20 to 23 are based on the following passage:

In the early twentieth century, the idea that pianists should be musician-scholars whose playing reflected the way composers wanted their music to sound replaced the notion that pianists should be virtuosos whose performances thrilled audiences with emotional daring and showy displays of technique. One important figure to emerge in the period, though a harpsichordist rather than a pianist, was Wanda Landowska (1879–1959). She demonstrated how the keyboard works of Baroque composers such as Bach, Handel, Scarlatti, and Couperin probably sounded in their own times. It would be a mistake to consider Landowska a classicist, however. She had been born in an age of Romantic playing dominated by Liszt, Leschetizky, and their pupils. Thus she grew up with and was influenced by certain Romantic traditions of performance, whatever the stringency of her
musical scholarship; Landowska knew how to hold
audiences breathless, and when she gave recitals,
they responded with deathlike silence and rapt
attention.

Her playing was Romantic, but it was at least
as close in spirit to the style of playing intended
by composers of the Baroque (1600–1750) and
Classical (1750–1830) eras, as have been the
more exacting but less emotionally resonant
interpretations of most harpsichordists since
Landowska. She had a miraculous quality of touch,
a seemingly autonomous left hand; no artist in
her generation could clarify with such deftness the
polyphonic writing of the Baroque masters. And
none could make their music so spring to life.

Her achievements were the result of a lifetime
of scholarship, truly remarkable physical gifts,
and resilient rhythm, all combined with excellent
judgment about when not to hold the printed
note sacrosanct. Of course, developing such
judgment demanded considerable experience and
imagination. She was a genius at underlining the
dramatic and emotional content of a piece, and
to do so, she took liberties, all kinds of liberties,
while nevertheless preserving the integrity of a composer’s score. In short, her entire musical approach was Romantic: intensely personal, full of light and shade, never pedantic.

Thanks to Landowska, Bach’s music (originally composed for the harpsichord) now sounded inappropriately thick when played on the piano.

One by one, pianists stopped playing Bach’s music as adapted for the piano by Liszt or by Tausig. Then they gradually stopped performing any kind of Baroque music on the piano, even Scarlatti’s. The piano repertoire, it began to be felt, was extensive enough without reverting to transcriptions of Baroque music originally written for the harpsichord—and piano performances of Bach and Scarlatti were, despite the obvious similarities between the harpsichord and the piano, transcriptions, no matter how faithfully the original notes were played. In accordance with this kind of purism came an emphasis on studying composers’ manuscript notations, a relatively new field of musicology that is flourishing even today.
20. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The passage suggests that Landowska’s playing embodied a rejection of which of the following?

- **A** Emotionally resonant interpretations of musical works
- **B** An audience’s complete silence during a performance
- **C** Performances of previously obscure Baroque works
- **D** The idea that a performer can correctly judge when not to hold the printed note sacrosanct
- **E** Performances emphasizing showy displays of technique that compromise the integrity of a composer’s original score
21. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the compositions of Scarlatti?

A They were adapted by Liszt and Tausig.
B They have not been transcribed faithfully.
C They were not composed during the Baroque period.
D They were composed for instruments other than piano.
E They fell out of favor with most musicians in the early twentieth century.
22. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The passage suggests that Landowska would probably have objected most strongly to which of the following?

A. A performance of a Bach keyboard piece played on the harpsichord
B. A performance of a Handel organ piece on a Baroque pipe organ
C. A modern composition written for a harpsichord and two pianos
D. A piano solo in which the performer occasionally departs from the tempo indicated by the composer
E. A performance of a piano and violin sonata in which the piano part is played on the harpsichord
23. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The author’s assertion that Landowska should not be considered a classicist serves primarily to emphasize which of the following?

A) Landowska specialized in playing the works of composers of the Baroque era.
B) Landowska’s repertoire included orchestral music only.
C) Landowska’s musical performances were not devoid of emotion.
D) Landowska’s repertoire emphasized works of long-lasting interest and value.
E) Landowska advocated the study of Classical style or form.
Questions 24 and 25 are based on the following passage. (A word is underlined and boldfaced in line 10 for reference in answering question 25.)

Scientists formerly believed that the rocky planets—Earth, Mercury, Venus, and Mars—were created by the rapid gravitational collapse of a dust cloud, a deflation giving rise to a dense orb. That view was challenged in the 1960s, when studies of Moon craters revealed that these craters were caused by the impact of objects that were in great abundance about 4.5 billion years ago but whose number appeared to have quickly decreased shortly thereafter. This observation rejuvenated Otto Schmidt’s 1944 theory of accretion. According to this theory, cosmic dust gradually lumped into ever-larger conglomerates: particulates, gravel, small and then larger balls, planetesimals (tiny planets), and, ultimately, planets. As the planetesimals became larger, their numbers decreased. Consequently, the number of collisions between planetesimals decreased.
24. Consider each of the following choices separately and select all that apply.

The passage provides evidence that Schmidt would be likely to disagree with the theory presented in the first sentence over

A the length of time it took for the rocky planets to form
B the most likely causes of the Moon’s impact craters
C the importance of cosmic dust as a seminal material in planetary formation
25. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices.

The word “observation” is underlined and boldfaced near the middle of the passage (line 10). Which of the following best describes the “observation” referred to in the passage?

A] The rocky planets were created by the rapid gravitational collapse of a dust cloud.

B] Certain features on the Moon’s surface are impact craters caused by collisions with objects such as planetesimals.

C] The rocky planets were formed by a slow accretion of cosmic dust into increasingly larger bodies.

D] The number of objects colliding with the Moon appears to have been high for a while and then rapidly diminished.

E] There are far fewer planetesimals in existence today than there were about 4.5 billion years ago.
This is the end of Practice Set 1. In an actual test, once you complete a section you may not return to it.

The answer key and the explanations for the answers to Chapter 6, Practice Set 1, are in the separate book titled “GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS® Official GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions, Volume 1. Large Print (18 Point) Edition. Chapter 6 – Mixed Practice Sets Answer Key with Answers and Explanations For Practice Set 1.