

• **Advanced Sentence Completion 1**

Directions: Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

- 1) Rather than be melancholy all winter, Jim should try to be more _____.
- A) energetic
B) jovial
C) heterogeneous
D) depraved
E) depressed
- 2) Elise always envisioned the monastery as an austere place of worship; however, upon visiting it, she found it surprisingly _____.
- A) comfortable
B) simple
C) barren
D) strict
E) ornate
- 3) Although it is necessary to carry a relatively large number of provisions when traversing the Australian Outback, it is _____ that you keep your pack from becoming too _____.
- A) crucial...ponderous
B) important...convoluted
C) imperative...compact
D) helpful...elongated
E) mandatory...insulated
- 4) After living a life of depravity and transgression, the offender felt so _____ that he declared he would become a priest, and devote the remainder of his life to _____.
- A) melancholy...sadness
B) tentative...shame
C) stolid...repentance
D) terrible...sin
E) contrite...atonement
- 5) He vowed to embrace a newfound _____ once the trial began; nonetheless the accused resorted to his typical manner of _____ as soon as he took the stand.
- A) ingenuousness...naïveté
B) mendaciousness...deceitfulness
C) passion...exuberance
D) candor...duplicity
E) residence...decrepitude
- 6) Despite some members of the Board of Education admitting to the _____ of his argument, Proposition G6 was still denied by a vote of 4 to 3.
- A) brusqueness
B) truculence
C) negligence
D) cogency
E) force

- 7) The boy is not _____ - he is _____ - and therefore should *not* be tried in court as an adult.
- A) puerile...young
B) mature...juvenile
C) experienced...inveterate
D) young...fledgling
E) youthful...established
- 8) Mr. Plainview is a man of secrecy. He deals with the mob and other _____ organizations, and regularly participates in their _____ activities.
- A) clandestine...unlawful
B) anarchistic...fraudulent
C) amiable...illegitimate
D) disdainful...scrupulous
E) illegal...exhilarating
- 9) Even the most _____ gambler stops betting when he or she runs out of money.
- A) intelligent
B) circumspect
C) cautious
D) hazardous
E) foolhardy
- 10) The _____ icicles hardly cast a shadow.
- A) diaphanous
B) auspicious
C) malleable
D) muddled
E) opaque
- 11) Upon hearing the _____ argument for the opposition, Mr. Algene felt _____ that he would win the debate.
- A) dubious...uncertain
B) substantial...sure
C) deplorable...convinced
D) tenuous...confident
E) hardy...positive
- 12) The lifestyle of a Cenobite is _____; one must devote oneself to religious exercise, self discipline, and abstention from material satisfaction.
- A) dull
B) ascetic
C) lachrymose
D) prodigal
E) harsh

Answers and Explanations

1) B

The context clue *rather* at the beginning of the sentence indicates that a contrast is coming. Since Jim should try to be the opposite of *melancholy*, try to think of the best antonym for *melancholy*, which is (B) *jovial*.

(A) *energetic* is tempting, but is not the best choice because it implies that someone has energy, and it is possible that a person can have energy and still be melancholy.

2) E

The context clues *although* and *surprisingly* indicate that what Elise envisioned about the monastery will be wrong. She envisioned it being *austere*. Therefore, we need to find the best antonym for *austere*, which is (E) *ornate*.

(A) *comfortable* is tempting, because it may seem surprising that a monastery would be comfortable. However, this is not the best contrast for Elise's expectation. (D) *strict* and (C) *barren* are also tempting, because it may be commonly believed that all monasteries have these characteristics. However, this is not necessarily true; it is possible that some monasteries are different. Furthermore, if these answer choices were indeed correct, it would not be *surprising*.

3) A

The context clue *although* indicates that a contrast is coming. Although it is necessary to carry a large and (probably) heavy pack when hiking across the outback, it is important that the pack is not too large and heavy. The words that best complete this sentence are (E) *crucial...ponderous*. Crucial means very important, and something that is ponderous is very heavy, bulky, or unwieldy.

(A) *helpful...elongated* is tempting, because helpful is a good fit for the first space, and elongated seems like it could be correct. However, it is too specific. If something is elongated, it is long and slender, not ponderous.

4) E

The offender lived a life of *depravity and transgression*, or immoral behavior and law breaking. If he or she then decides to become a priest, it is clear that they would like to change who they were in the past. Therefore, (E) *contrite...atonement* is the best answer.

The offender feels sorry and remorseful, so they would like to pay for their bad behavior by living a life of penitence or compensation for bad behavior.

5) D

The context clue *nonetheless* indicates that we need to find words with opposite meanings. The accused said they were going to do one thing, but ended up doing the opposite thing. (D) *candor...duplicity* is the best choice here. The accused vowed to be frank, open, or honest, but nonetheless resorted to deceit and deception.

6) B

The context clue *despite* indicates that a contrast is coming. The Board of Educators admitted to something, but still denied the proposition. The context clue tells you that they must have admitted to something positive about the proposition. Therefore, (D) *cogency*, a quality of something compelling or convincing, is correct.

(E) *force* is tempting, but is not the best choice because an argument can be forceful, but still lack cogency.

7) B

In this sentence we need to find two words that are opposites; the boy is not _____ – he is the opposite, and so should be tried as an adult. If he should be not be tried as an adult, he must be young, or immature. Therefore, the opposite of this should fill the first space. (B) *mature...juvenile* do this nicely.

(E) *experienced...inveterate* is tempting - experienced is a nice fit for the first space, and inveterate seems like it could mean inexperienced, given the prefix *in* and the root *veteran*. However, inveterate does not mean inexperienced. It means ingrained, or settled in ones way, so it is not a good fit for the second space.

8) A

The word *secrecy* indicates that the organization Mr. Plainview deals with are secret. Therefore, we need to find an answer choice that best shows this. (A) *clandestine...unlawful* is clearly the best answer here. Clandestine means secret or covert. The mob is an organization that practices unlawful activities, so unlawful is a good fit for the second space.

(E) *illegal...exhilarating* is tempting because illegal fits the first space. However, adventurous does not fit the second space. Although the activities of mobsters and secret organizations are often portrayed as exhilarating

in popular culture, this is not necessarily the case in many such organizations; some their activities are actually mundane and depressing.

9) E

(E) *foolhardy* is the correct answer, because someone who is foolhardy is reckless or foolish. Even a reckless or foolish gambler must stop betting when they run out of money to bet with.

(A) *intelligent* is tempting, but remember that a gambler must stop betting regardless if they are intelligent or not, so the answer adds nothing new to the completed sentence.

10) A

Some icicles are transparent – they are so clear that they will not cast a shadow because light is able to pass through them. So, you should look for a word that means *transparent*. (A) *diaphanous* is a good synonym for transparent, and is the correct answer.

If you do not know the meaning of diaphanous, try eliminating some of the answer choices which you do know the meaning of. (C) *malleable* means flexible or pliable so it is not correct. (D) *muddled* means mixed up or cluttered, and (E) *opaque* means unclear or cloudy – a good antonym for transparent. So, neither of these are good answer choices. Even if you don't know the meaning of (B) *auspicious*, you can narrow your answer choices to two, and make your best guess. At least now you have a 50% chance of answering the question correctly.

11) E

After reading this sentence, you should see that the first clause causes the second clause to be true. In order to maintain this relationship, two antonyms are needed. If the argument for opposition is tenuous, it is weak or shaky. This should make Mr. Algene feel confident. Therefore, (D) *tenuous...confident* is the correct answer.

Answers (A) *dubious...uncertain*, (B) *substantial...sure*, and (E) *hardy...positive* all fail to show the correct relationship between the first and second clauses. In (C) just because the argument for the opposition is *deplorable* does not necessarily mean it is bad. Therefore, Mr Algene has no reason to be *convinced* that he would win the debate.

12) A

Even if you aren't sure what a *Cenobite* is, this is not essential to answer the question correctly. Whatever a Cenobite is, you know that they must devote themselves to religious exercise, self discipline, and abstention from material satisfaction. Therefore, you should look for an answer that best fits this definition. The correct answer is (B) *ascetic* which fits rather nicely.

Although this lifestyle probably seems (A) *dull* or (E) *harsh* to most people, it is not necessarily so for Cenobites. Try not to be fooled into choosing an incorrect answer because it reflects a commonly held opinion that is not universally true.