1. Considering he cheated on the most important exam of the year, receiving an automatic zero seems ______ punishment.
   A. a brutal
   B. an unfair
   C. an appropriate
   D. a useless
   E. an unthinkable

2. Due to the ______ of hurricanes near the coast, a beach house must have ______ walls to prevent it from collapsing.
   A. lack ... weak
   B. scarcity ... normal
   C. amount ... high
   D. prevalence ... sturdy
   E. abundance ... flimsy

3. After his ______ in the election, the new mayor adopted an aura of ______ that displeased many of the voters; he was too proud to listen to the citizens anymore.
   A. speech ... humility
   B. win ... meekness
   C. campaign ... annoyance
   D. loss ... sadness
   E. victory ... arrogance

4. Trina’s parents are concerned with how ______ she has become summer. They are trying to find more activities to occupy her time.
   A. fit
   B. idle
   C. active
   D. productive
   E. employed

5. After Jose and Wendy get married, they are going to open a ______ bank account so that they can share expenses.
   A. individual
   B. separate
   C. joint
   D. independent
   E. secret

6. Despite his remarkably ______ range of interests, the idea of becoming a bottle cap manufacturer seemed rather______ to him.
   A. diverse ... odd
   B. narrow ... exotic
   C. strange ... typical
   D. regular ... unusual
   E. simple ... selfish

7. Cindy’s date proved to be a ______ gentleman; he opened doors, paid for dinner, and even called her a taxi ride home.
   A. questionable
   B. genuine
   C. happy
   D. comical
   E. shady

8. Unlike the ______ hair of her dog, Sam’s horse has ______ hair, making it easier to groom.
   A. rough ... brown
   B. thick ... rough
   C. curly ... straight
   D. smooth ... uneven
   E. firm ... strong
Answers and Explanations

1) C
Cheating on a test is a very serious offense. Many teachers will give cheaters an automatic failing grade. If someone cheats on the most important exam of the year, most people would think that an automatic zero would be (C) an appropriate punishment. (C) is the correct answer.

People need to be punished for their wrongdoings. Punishing a student who cheats on an exam is not (A) brutal, (B) unfair, (D) useless, or (E) unthinkable. These characteristics describe a punishment that someone does not deserve, but students who get caught cheating do deserve to be punished. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

2) D
When something is prevalent, it is very common. Hurricanes are very common on the Atlantic coast, so they have a high (D) prevalence. Because they are so common, any house built on the coast needs to have (D) sturdy walls in order to withstand the hurricane’s force. “Sturdy” is another way of saying “strong” or “tough.” Only very sturdy walls have a chance to withstand a hurricane. The correct answer is (D).

There is no (A) lack or (B) scarcity of hurricanes on the coast. These words mean that there is not a lot of something, but there are a lot of hurricanes on the coast every year. We can ignore these answer choices right away. (C) High or (E) flimsy walls will not necessarily withstand hurricane-force winds. Only sturdy walls can withstand a hurricane. Therefore, these answer choices are also incorrect.

3) E
The main clue in this question is “too proud.” Remember that the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a relationship between the outcome of the election and the mayor’s new attitude. We know from the question that he became “too proud,” so we know that he became arrogant. (E) Arrogance is a characteristic that involves being too proud, confident, or stuck-up. If the mayor experienced a (E) victory in the election, then he won the election. He probably felt very powerful after winning, so he became arrogant. The correct answer is (E).

(A) Humility, (B) weakness, and (D) sadness are unrelated to being proud. In fact, “humility” is the opposite of “arrogance.” We can ignore these answer choices right away. The mayor might have felt (C) annoyance at having to listen to the citizens’ complaints all day, but this is not directly related to being proud, either. Therefore, this is not the best answer choice.

4) B
If you need more activities to fill up your time, then you probably have too much 
free time on your hands at the moment. Sometimes when people have too much 
free time, they become (B) idle. This means that they are lazy and bored, and 
they don't achieve or accomplish very much. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices do form logical relationships with the idea that Trina 
needs activities to occupy her time. If she is (A) fit or (C) active, then she spends 
her time exercising or playing sports. If she is (D) productive or (E) employed, 
then she spends her time working. None of these characteristics imply that Trina 
needs to occupy more of her time with new activities. Therefore, these answer 
choices are incorrect.

5) C
The main clue in this question is “so they can share expenses.” Many married 
couples believe that they should combine the money they earn and share their 
expenses so that one spouse does not have more money than the other. A (C) joint 
bank account helps couples do this, because they deposit and withdraw 
money from the same account. The correct answer is (C).

(A) Individual, (B) separate, or (D) independent bank accounts are accounts that 
belong to only one spouse. These are accounts that the other spouse cannot 
access. A (E) secret bank account would be an account that no one knows 
about, so we can assume it would not be used for sharing within a married 
couple. These answer choices are incorrect.

6) A
The word “despite” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite 
way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with a man’s 
interests and his impressions of being a bottle cap manufacturer. If someone has 
a (A) diverse range of interests, this means that he or she is interested in lots of 
different things. However, if that person thinks that being a bottle cap 
manufacturer is (A) odd, then he or she is probably not very interested in bottle 
cap manufacturing. This is the opposite of how that person views most other jobs 
or hobbies. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. If the man in the 
question has a (B) narrow range of interests, then he is not interested in many 
things. He probably sees bottle cap manufacturing as (B) exotic because it is 
unusual. There is no contradiction or opposite relationship here. Similarly, there 
is no opposite relationship between having a (C) strange range of interests and 
thinking that bottle cap manufacturing is (C) typical, or having a (D) regular range 
of interests and thinking that it is (D) unusual. Nothing in the question relates to 
being (E) selfish, so we can ignore this answer choice.

7) B
“Gentleman” usually refers to a man who is very polite and treats women in a respectful manner. If Cindy’s date did lots of nice things for her, then he is a (B) **genuine** gentleman. This means that he truly acts like a gentleman, and he was not trying to be rude or behave badly. The correct answer is **(B)**.

You cannot apply the words **(A) questionable** or **(E) shady** to a gentleman. These are negative words used to describe people who do bad things, but gentlemen are supposed to be polite and good. We do not know from the question if Cindy’s date was **(C) happy** or **(D) comical**. We only know that he did nice things for her, so we only know that he is a genuine gentleman.

8) **C**

The word “unlike” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between Sam’s dog’s hair and her horse’s hair. The only answer choice that involves opposites is **(C) curly ... straight**. Straight hair is often easier to groom than curly hair. The correct answer is **(C)**.

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships, and they do not all relate to how easy or difficult it is to groom an animal. **(A) Rough** and **(A) brown** are not opposites, and it is not easier to groom brown hair than it is to groom any other color of hair. Similarly, there is no opposite relationship between hair that is **(B) thick** and **(B) rough**, **(D) smooth** and **(D) uneven**, or **(E) firm** and **(E) strong**. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.