

• Sentence Completion 2 Level 11

**Directions:** Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. While still in school, Richard Nixon's debate coach noticed the young debater's ability to answer questions \_\_\_\_\_ and noted that Nixon rarely seemed to address anything \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. audaciously ... brazenly  
B. ambiguously ... disingenuously  
C. unequivocally ... absolutely  
D. obliquely ... directly  
E. bluntly ... explicitly
2. Mrs. Rubin was taken aback by Timothy's \_\_\_\_\_, as she had never before seen a child disrespect his elders so blatantly.  
A. jauntiness  
B. reverence  
C. impudence  
D. humility  
E. obsequiousness
3. Many states use a point system in which each driving infraction is worth a certain number of points, and if one exceeds a certain number of cumulative points in a year, his or her driving privileges are \_\_\_\_\_ until a later date, at which time the driver may reapply for his or her license.  
A. revoked  
B. recuperated  
C. reprimanded  
D. curbed  
E. instituted
4. Though usually \_\_\_\_\_, my neighbor's cat was quite \_\_\_\_\_ when it came to defending what she considered her territory; luckily for her, she would often win the fights she started.  
A. antagonistic ... placatory  
B. cantankerous ... belligerent  
C. serene ... amicable  
D. aggressive ... pacifistic  
E. peaceful ... pugnacious
5. The councilwoman accused the city manager of \_\_\_\_\_, alleging that he abused his power to help secure a contract beneficial to his own personal bank account.  
A. malfeasance  
B. unscrupulousness  
C. depravity  
D. bribery  
E. misconduct
6. Though not appreciated in the author's own lifetime, Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason* has come to be recognized as a \_\_\_\_\_ work, one that profoundly impacted Western theology for generations.  
A. controversial  
B. negligible  
C. seminal  
D. trifling  
E. provocative

## Answers and Explanations

### 1) D

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Here, there are three keywords: “answer,” “rarely,” and “address.” “Answer” and “address” are both modified by missing words that must refer to how the questions were answered, and “rarely” gives the relationship between them, making it clear they should be opposites: Nixon was able to answer questions one way and rarely answered questions the other way. Thus, the missing words’ meanings cannot be predicted, but the correct choice must provide a pair of antonyms. Of the choices, only choice **(D)** provides a pair of antonyms, as *obliquely* means not in a straightforward manner, while *directly* means in a straightforward manner.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of antonyms. *Audaciously* means bravely, while *brazenly* means shamelessly. If anything, these words are synonyms.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of antonyms. *Ambiguously* means vaguely or indirectly, while *disingenuously* means lacking in frankness. Both words, then, essentially would imply that Nixon was unable to answer questions head on.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of antonyms. *Unequivocally* means clearly, while *absolutely* means certainly. Thus, these two words are essentially synonyms and would both imply that Nixon could not be vague.

**(E)** is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of antonyms. *Bluntly* means frankly or without sensitivity, while *explicitly* means clearly. If anything, these words are synonyms, though the prompt requires a pair of antonyms.

### 2) C

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keywords are “disrespect his elders,” which means that Timothy did or said something rude to an adult. The missing word describes something Timothy possesses, and, since we only know that he is rude, the missing word must mean rudeness. Therefore, choice **(C)** is correct, since *impudence* means impertinence or audacious rudeness.

**(A)** is incorrect because *jauntiness* is cheerfulness. This word does not work because cheerfulness has no relationship to rudeness.

**(B)** is incorrect because *reverence* is respect, something a rude child would almost certainly not possess.

**(D)** is incorrect because *humility* is modesty. The prompt indicates that the child was rude, not modest.

**(E)** is incorrect because *obsequiousness* is flattery, something a rude child would probably not use.

### 3) A

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keyword is “reapply,” a word that implies that driving privileges must have been taken away from the driver who exceeded a certain number of points, as one would not need to “reapply” if one did not lose the license to begin with. Thus, the missing word must be one that means taken away. Therefore, the correct choice is **(A)**, since *revoked* means taken away.

**(B)** is incorrect because *recuperated* means recovered from financial or physical loss. The prompt means to imply the opposite: driving privileges are not recovered until after the driver “reapplies for his or her license.”

**(C)** is incorrect because *reprimanded* means punished, and while the driver in the prompt is being punished for exceeding a number of driving points, the privileges themselves are not being punished. This answer does not make sense grammatically.

**(D)** is incorrect because *curbed* means limited. While the driver in question certainly will have more limited driving privileges, the prompt makes it clear that he or she will lose his or her license, as the driver must then “reapply” for it. This means that curbed is not extreme enough for the prompt.

**(E)** is incorrect because *instituted* means created or started. It is, thus, the opposite of what happens to driving privileges if a driver exceeds a number of points.

### 4) E

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keyword is “though,” which implies a negative or opposite relationship between the two missing words. In this prompt, the cat is usually one way but was “was quite” the opposite way when she was “defending... her territory.” The prompt provides one additional clue in stating that she “would often win the fights she started.” This phrase implies that the two missing words relate to fighting, meaning the correct choice will provide two antonyms relating to fighting. *Peaceful* means calm, while *pugnacious* means quick to fight. These words are opposites, so choice **(E)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because the words are in the wrong order to work in context. *Antagonistic* means hostile and *placatory* means attempting to appease. This choice does not work because the prompt implies that the cat is usually placatory but could be antagonistic when she needed to defend her territory.

**(B)** is incorrect because the two words are synonyms, rather than the antonyms the prompt requires. *Cantankerous* means disagreeable or hostile, while *belligerent* means warlike, meaning both words imply that the cat is hostile.

**(C)** is incorrect because the two words are not opposites. *Serene* means calm and *amicable* means agreeable, so both words would imply that the cat is easy to get along with. The prompt, however, implies that the cat can be hostile and will “start fights.”

**(D)** is incorrect because the words are in the wrong order to work in context. *Aggressive* means hostile, while *pacifistic* means peace-loving. This choice does not work because the prompt implies that the cat is usually pacifistic but could be aggressive when she needed to defend her territory.

**5) A**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords in the prompt. Here, the keywords are “abused his power,” something that the councilwoman “alleged” the city manager did. The missing word likewise describes an allegation or accusation made about the city manager, so the missing word must be one relating to an abuse of power. A *malffeasance* is a wrongdoing committed by a public official such as a city manager, so choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *unscrupulousness* is a lack of morality. While it implies wrongdoing, just as the prompt requires, it does not directly relate to an abuse of power. One can show unscrupulousness without being in a position of power.

**(C)** is incorrect because *depravity* is a lack of morality. While it implies wrongdoing, just as the prompt requires, it does not directly relate to an abuse of power. One can show depravity without being in a position of power.

**(D)** is incorrect because *bribery* is an act of giving or taking money to induce one into doing something he or she would otherwise not do. While bribery is an example of a finance-related wrongdoing, the prompt does not imply that the city manager bribed anyone; rather, it merely implies that the city manager in some way made a little more money than he should have.

**(E)** is incorrect because *misconduct* is misbehavior. While it implies wrongdoing, just as the prompt requires, it does not directly relate to an abuse of power. One can perform misconduct without being in a position of power.

**6) C**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keywords come after the comma, in the descriptive clause “one that profoundly impacted Western theology for generations.” This clause elaborates on the “work” modified by the missing word, so the missing word must mean profoundly important. Because *seminal* means highly influential, choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *controversial* means causing controversy or scandal. While *The Age of Reason* might have been controversial, the prompt only implies that it was not appreciated in its time period but was later seen as having import. There is not enough information in the prompt to definitively call it a controversial work.

**(B)** is incorrect because *negligible* means small in significance and is, thus, the exact opposite of an adjective that would be used to describe a work that “profoundly impacted” Western thought.

**(D)** is incorrect because *trifling* means insignificant and is, thus, the exact opposite of an adjective that would be used to describe a work that “profoundly impacted” Western thought.

**(E)** is incorrect because *provocative* means stimulating. While *The Age of Reason* is probably interesting and stimulating, the prompt is looking for a word that discusses the work’s impact and influence, not how interesting it is.