

GRE Sentence Equivalence Practice Questions PDF

Here are some GRE Sentence Equivalence sample questions. Utilise these to practise and strengthen your preparation for the exam.

1. Although it does contain some pioneering ideas, one would hardly characterise the work as _____.

- A. orthodox
- B. eccentric
- C. original
- D. trifling
- E. conventional
- F. innovative

Answers:

- C) original
- F) innovative

Explanation: The word "Although" serves as an important signal in this context. The text includes some groundbreaking ideas, yet it is not considered an entirely pioneering work. Therefore, the two words that best complete the blank are "original" and "innovative." In contrast, while "orthodox" and "conventional" are similar in meaning, they do not fit the sentence appropriately.

2. It was her view that the country's problems had been _____ by foreign technocrats, so to ask for such assistance again would be counterproductive.

- A. ameliorated
- B. ascertained
- C. diagnosed
- D. exacerbated
- E. overlooked
- F. worsened

Answers:

- D) exacerbated
- F) worsened

Explanation: The sentence presents a line of reasoning, signalled by the phrase "so that." It suggests that seeking help from foreign technocrats would be counterproductive due to the negative impact they have already had. This implies that the technocrats must have made the situation worse; in other words, they must have "exacerbated" or "worsened" the country's problems.

3. Despite his reputation for being _____, the author's new novel is surprisingly accessible and engaging.

- A) reclusive
- B) verbose
- C) obscure
- D) prolific
- E) clear
- F) concise

Answers:

- B) verbose
- C) obscure

Explanation: The sentence contrasts the author's reputation with the accessibility of his new novel. "Verbose" and "obscure" both imply that the author is known for being difficult to understand or long-winded, which is the opposite of "accessible and engaging."

4. The scientist's approach was deemed _____, as it ignored crucial variables that were later proven to be significant.

- A) innovative
- B) flawed
- C) brilliant
- D) careless
- E) methodical
- F) thoughtful

Answers:

- B) flawed
- D) careless

Explanation: The sentence indicates that the scientist's approach was problematic because it ignored important variables. "Flawed" and "careless" both fit the context, as they suggest a lack of thoroughness or consideration.

5. The politician's speech was so _____ that even his supporters found it difficult to follow.

- A) persuasive
- B) confusing
- C) tedious
- D) inspiring
- E) obscure
- F) eloquent

Answers:

- B) confusing
- E) obscure

Explanation: The sentence suggests that the speech was hard to understand, even for supporters. "Confusing" and "obscure" both describe something that is difficult to follow or unclear.

6. Her attempts to negotiate the deal were _____; she lacked the necessary experience and finesse.

- A) fruitful
- B) unsuccessful
- C) awkward
- D) promising
- E) clumsy
- F) strategic

Answers:

- C) awkward
- E) clumsy

Explanation: The sentence implies that her negotiation attempts failed due to a lack of skill. "Awkward" and "clumsy" both indicate a lack of smoothness or competence, making them the correct choices.

7. The novel's plot was so _____ that many readers struggled to understand its progression.

- A) intricate
- B) convoluted
- C) straightforward
- D) simple
- E) confusing
- F) innovative

Answers:

- B) convoluted
- E) confusing

Explanation: The sentence indicates that the plot was difficult to follow. "Convoluted" and "confusing" both describe something that is complex and hard to understand, matching the context of the sentence.