

GRE Advanced Vocabulary Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. How is 'strident' best characterized in terms of sound?**
 - A. Soft and soothing**
 - B. Melodic and harmonious**
 - C. Unpleasantly loud and harsh**
 - D. Whispering and subtle**
- 2. Which word signifies 'profound respect'?**
 - A. Erudition**
 - B. Veneration**
 - C. Magnanimity**
 - D. Dolorous**
- 3. What is the characteristic of someone who is iconoclastic?**
 - A. Supportive of tradition**
 - B. Critical of established beliefs**
 - C. Adheres to conventions**
 - D. Follows norms**
- 4. What is the branch of theology that deals with sermons and homilies called?**
 - A. Homiletics**
 - B. Exegesis**
 - C. Didactics**
 - D. Epistemology**
- 5. What term describes a rapid and substantial increase in population or numbers?**
 - A. Decline**
 - B. Stagnation**
 - C. Pullulation**
 - D. Reduction**
- 6. What is the meaning of the word "loquacious"?**
 - A. Reserved and quiet**
 - B. Talkative**
 - C. Indifferent**
 - D. Mysterious**

- 7. Which term implies overinflation, both physically and metaphorically?**
- A. Propitiate**
 - B. Turgid**
 - C. Vitiate**
 - D. Wend**
- 8. What does "mercurial" imply about a person?**
- A. Stable and predictable**
 - B. Solemn and serious**
 - C. Liable to sudden unpredictable change**
 - D. Reserved and thoughtful**
- 9. Which term refers to integrity that is completely confirmed?**
- A. Tortuous**
 - B. Solicitous**
 - C. Probity**
 - D. Aggrandize**
- 10. Which word refers to someone who is acutely insightful and wise?**
- A. Sagacious**
 - B. Perceptive**
 - C. Intuitive**
 - D. Astute**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. C
10. A

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Explanations

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1. How is 'strident' best characterized in terms of sound?

- A. Soft and soothing
- B. Melodic and harmonious
- C. Unpleasantly loud and harsh**
- D. Whispering and subtle

The term 'strident' is most accurately characterized as an unpleasantly loud and harsh sound. This adjective is often used to describe noises that are piercing or grating, which can evoke discomfort or annoyance when heard. In various contexts, such as music or speech, a strident tone lacks the pleasing qualities associated with softer or more harmonious sounds, making it particularly distinctive in its harshness. The other choices present contrasting qualities that do not align with the nature of the word. For instance, 'soft and soothing' conveys a gentleness that strident sounds do not possess, while 'melodic and harmonious' suggests a level of pleasantness that is the opposite of what strident implies. Similarly, 'whispering and subtle' refers to quiet and understated sounds, further highlighting the distinct characteristics associated with strident sounds. Therefore, option C is the one that captures the essence of 'strident' most effectively.

2. Which word signifies 'profound respect'?

- A. Erudition
- B. Veneration**
- C. Magnanimity
- D. Dolorous

The term that signifies 'profound respect' is "veneration." This word originates from the Latin root "venerari," which means to revere or regard with deep respect. Veneration describes a feeling or attitude of profound reverence or admiration for someone or something, often in a spiritual or religious context, but it can also apply in secular situations where deep respect is warranted. In contrast, "erudition" refers to the quality of having or showing great knowledge or learning, typically acquired through extensive reading and study, but it does not encompass the notion of respect. "Magnanimity" denotes generosity or forgiveness, especially towards a rival or someone less powerful, showcasing nobility of spirit rather than respect. "Dolorous" describes a state of sorrow or mourning, which is unrelated to the idea of respect, focusing instead on feelings of grief or anguish. Hence, veneration is the most fitting choice for conveying profound respect.

3. What is the characteristic of someone who is iconoclastic?

- A. Supportive of tradition**
- B. Critical of established beliefs**
- C. Adheres to conventions**
- D. Follows norms**

Someone who is iconoclastic is characterized by a critical stance towards established beliefs, traditions, and conventions. This term originates from the practice of iconoclasm, which literally refers to the destruction of religious icons and images, but has come to describe individuals who challenge or reject societal norms and widely accepted ideologies. In this context, being iconoclastic means embracing unconventional ideas and promoting innovation by questioning the status quo. This trait is often associated with thinkers, artists, or reformers who seek to provoke thought and inspire change rather than adhere to existing frameworks or beliefs. Therefore, the characteristic of being critical of established beliefs encapsulates the essence of iconoclasm effectively.

4. What is the branch of theology that deals with sermons and homilies called?

- A. Homiletics**
- B. Exegesis**
- C. Didactics**
- D. Epistemology**

Homiletics is the branch of theology specifically focused on the art and science of preaching and delivering sermons. It encompasses the principles and practices involved in crafting and presenting effective homilies, which are typically short sermons or lessons that convey spiritual teachings. The study of homiletics includes not only the content of the message but also the style, delivery methods, and how to engage an audience effectively. In contrast, exegesis involves the critical interpretation and explanation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, without focusing on the actual delivery of preaching. Didactics refer to the theory and practice of teaching, which is broader than the specific context of sermons. Epistemology is a philosophical branch that studies the nature and scope of knowledge, including its sources and limitations, and is not directly related to the practice of preaching. Therefore, homiletics is the most accurate term that describes the theology dedicated to sermons and homilies.

5. What term describes a rapid and substantial increase in population or numbers?

- A. Decline**
- B. Stagnation**
- C. Pullulation**
- D. Reduction**

The term that describes a rapid and substantial increase in population or numbers is "pullulation." This word originates from the Latin "pullulatio," which means to sprout or bud, and it specifically refers to the act of proliferating or flourishing rapidly. In demographic and ecological contexts, pullulation often pertains to the growth of populations, especially in situations where environmental conditions favor reproduction and survival. In contrast, the other options reflect processes or states that are quite different from a population increase. For example, "decline" refers to a decrease in numbers or quality, while "stagnation" signifies a period of little to no growth or change. "Reduction," similarly, indicates a diminishment in size, quantity, or extent. Hence, pullulation stands out as the term that accurately captures the essence of a substantial increase in population.

6. What is the meaning of the word "loquacious"?

- A. Reserved and quiet**
- B. Talkative**
- C. Indifferent**
- D. Mysterious**

The word "loquacious" is derived from the Latin word "loqui," which means "to speak." Therefore, it specifically describes someone who is very talkative or chatty. A loquacious person tends to engage in conversations readily, often enjoying the act of speaking at length. This characteristic is distinctly different from being reserved or quiet, which would imply a tendency to say little. Those who are loquacious are typically sociable and expressive in their communication. The other options do not convey this essence of being talkative and highlight different traits that do not relate to the core meaning of the word.

7. Which term implies overinflation, both physically and metaphorically?

A. Propitiate

B. Turgid

C. Vitiate

D. Wend

The term that means overinflation, both physically and metaphorically, is "turgid." In a physical sense, "turgid" describes something that is swollen or inflated, often used in reference to plants when they are filled with water to the point of firmness. However, it also has a metaphorical application, particularly in literature and speech, where it denotes a style that is excessively ornate or pompous. This dual meaning captures the idea of being inflated in both a literal and abstract way, making "turgid" the most fitting choice for the question posed. Other terms, while having their own meanings, do not convey this idea of inflation. "Propitiate" relates to appeasing a god or spirit, "vitiate" refers to impairing or damaging something, and "wend" means to follow a course or go in a direction. None of these capture the concept of overinflation in the same way that "turgid" does.

8. What does "mercurial" imply about a person?

A. Stable and predictable

B. Solemn and serious

C. Liable to sudden unpredictable change

D. Reserved and thoughtful

The term "mercurial" describes a person who is subject to sudden and unpredictable changes in mood or behavior. This word derives from Mercury, the Roman god known for his swift movement and changeability, which perfectly encapsulates the essence of someone whose emotions or actions can shift rapidly and unexpectedly. Such individuals might fluctuate between enthusiasm and despondency or show variability in their responses to situations, making them difficult to predict. In contrast, the other choices suggest traits that are fundamentally opposite to being mercurial. Stability and predictability, solemnity, seriousness, or being reserved and thoughtful indicate a steadfastness in disposition, which is not characteristic of someone who is mercurial. Thus, "liable to sudden unpredictable change" directly aligns with the core meaning of the term, making it the correct answer.

9. Which term refers to integrity that is completely confirmed?

- A. Tortuous**
- B. Solicitous**
- C. Probity**
- D. Aggrandize**

The term that refers to integrity that is completely confirmed is "probity." Probity encompasses the idea of having strong moral principles, uprightness, and honesty, with an emphasis on the assurance that such integrity is unwavering and well-established. This term is often used in contexts where ethical behavior and trustworthiness are paramount, making it especially relevant in discussions about professional and personal conduct. In contrast, the other terms do not convey the same sense of confirmed integrity. "Tortuous" describes something that is winding or complex, often used metaphorically to describe convoluted reasoning or paths. "Solicitous" refers to showing concern or care for someone's well-being, lacking the emphasis on integrity. "Aggrandize" means to increase in power, wealth, or status, often implying an expansion of one's influence rather than a focus on moral integrity. Thus, "probity" is the most fitting term for completely confirmed integrity.

10. Which word refers to someone who is acutely insightful and wise?

- A. Sagacious**
- B. Perceptive**
- C. Intuitive**
- D. Astute**

The word "sagacious" specifically conveys a depth of wisdom and insight that goes beyond mere perception or intuition. It describes someone who not only understands complex situations but also possesses the profound judgment and experience to make sound decisions. This term often implies an ability to discern and interpret subtle nuances in various contexts, showing a high level of discernment and wisdom that is recognized and respected. While "perceptive," "intuitive," and "astute" all relate to insightfulness and sharp awareness, they do not capture the full depth of wisdom implied by "sagacious." "Perceptive" emphasizes the ability to notice and interpret information quickly and accurately but doesn't necessarily entail a wealth of wisdom. "Intuitive" suggests a natural ability to understand or know something without the need for conscious reasoning, which does not require the same level of experience or judgment. "Astute" refers to being clever and able to assess situations to gain an advantage, indicating sharpness and shrewdness, but again lacks the overarching wisdom connoted by "sagacious." Thus, "sagacious" distinctly embodies a combination of insight, wisdom, and sound judgment, making it the correct choice.