

HSPT and Upper Level ISEE/SSAT Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. How would you describe something that is immaculate?**
 - A. Completely neat and clean**
 - B. Excessively sweet**
 - C. Ostentatiously lofty in style**
 - D. A very steep cliff**
- 2. What does it mean to come down on or keep down by unjust use of one's authority?**
 - A. Oppress**
 - B. Encourage**
 - C. Empower**
 - D. Support**
- 3. Which term refers to someone who is dazzlingly skilled in a particular field?**
 - A. virtuoso**
 - B. amateur**
 - C. novice**
 - D. layperson**
- 4. Which word refers to vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment?**
 - A. Cunning**
 - B. Momentum**
 - C. Gusto**
 - D. Scarcity**
- 5. In what context might one use the term "cosmopolitan"?**
 - A. In discussing local agricultural practices**
 - B. When referring to a diverse and global culture**
 - C. When portraying isolationism**
 - D. In describing a monochromatic art style**
- 6. What does "vehement" imply about someone's emotions?**
 - A. Marked by indifference**
 - B. Marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions**
 - C. Characterized by a lack of enthusiasm**
 - D. Exhibiting mild reactions**

7. What does it mean to engross oneself in an activity?

- A. To share attention with others**
- B. To partially engage in a task**
- C. To devote fully to the task**
- D. To avoid the task entirely**

8. To muster means to:

- A. Execute a plan**
- B. Gather or bring together**
- C. Divide or separate**
- D. Critique extensively**

9. What does "contortion" describe?

- A. A perfectly straight posture**
- B. A rigid structure**
- C. A twisted and twisted shape or position**
- D. A uniform and smooth appearance**

10. To illuminate means to:

- A. Make darker and harder to see**
- B. Make lighter or brighter**
- C. To confuse or obscure**
- D. To diminish the intensity of a light source**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. How would you describe something that is immaculate?

- A. Completely neat and clean**
- B. Excessively sweet**
- C. Ostentatiously lofty in style**
- D. A very steep cliff**

Immaculate describes something that is entirely free from flaws or mistakes, and it is most commonly associated with being perfectly clean and tidy. When referring to cleanliness, this term conveys a sense of being pristine or in an immaculate condition, which aligns with the choice that indicates complete neatness and cleanliness. The other options do not capture the essence of being immaculate. Something that is excessively sweet pertains to taste, which is unrelated to the cleanliness or flawlessness implied by immaculate. The reference to ostentatious and lofty style describes something stylish or grand, again missing the focus on cleanliness. Lastly, describing a very steep cliff does not relate to the concept of cleanliness or perfection at all. Thus, the description of something that is immaculate as completely neat and clean is the most accurate and fitting interpretation of the term.

2. What does it mean to come down on or keep down by unjust use of one's authority?

- A. Oppress**
- B. Encourage**
- C. Empower**
- D. Support**

The phrase "come down on or keep down by unjust use of one's authority" refers to the act of exerting power or control over others in a way that is unfair or oppressive. When someone is said to oppress others, it means they are using their authority to restrict freedom, limit opportunities, or impose hardship on individuals or groups. Thus, the term describes a situation where people are held back or mistreated because of an abuse of power, which aligns perfectly with the concept of oppression. This can involve political, social, or economic dimensions where individuals are not allowed to express themselves freely or to achieve their potential due to external constraints imposed by those in authority. The other choices do not convey this meaning of unfair control; instead, they suggest support or promotion, which contrasts with the idea of subjugation inherent in oppression.

3. Which term refers to someone who is dazzlingly skilled in a particular field?

- A. virtuoso**
- B. amateur**
- C. novice**
- D. layperson**

The term that refers to someone who is dazzlingly skilled in a particular field is "virtuoso." A virtuoso is someone who possesses a high degree of skill or artistry, particularly in the context of music or the performing arts. This term conveys a sense of exceptional talent and mastery, indicating that the individual stands out in their field due to their remarkable proficiency and creative expression. In contrast, the other terms describe varying levels of experience or skill that do not reflect the same level of expertise. An amateur is someone who engages in a pursuit without professional skill or knowledge, while a novice refers to a beginner or someone who is just starting to learn something new. A layperson is someone who is not a professional or expert in a specific field, lacking the high level of skill that characterizes a virtuoso. Thus, "virtuoso" is the most appropriate term for an individual known for their dazzling skill.

4. Which word refers to vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment?

- A. Cunning**
- B. Momentum**
- C. Gusto**
- D. Scarcity**

The term that signifies vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment is "gusto." This word is often used to describe a lively or hearty enjoyment, especially in relation to activities such as eating, drinking, or participating in events. It conveys a sense of energy and passion, suggesting that someone is fully immersed in the experience and savoring it to the fullest. In contrast, "cunning" refers to being sly or clever, often with a negative connotation of deceit. "Momentum" relates to the movement or force gained by a moving object and does not denote enjoyment at all. "Scarcity" means the state of being in short supply, which is unrelated to the concept of enjoyment. By understanding the context and nuance of "gusto," one can appreciate its vibrant connotation, making it the correct choice.

5. In what context might one use the term "cosmopolitan"?

- A. In discussing local agricultural practices**
- B. When referring to a diverse and global culture**
- C. When portraying isolationism**
- D. In describing a monochromatic art style**

The term "cosmopolitan" is best understood in the realm of culture and society, particularly when referring to the idea of being familiar with and at ease in many different countries and cultures. In this context, "cosmopolitan" describes an individual or setting that embodies diversity and global interconnectedness, recognizing and celebrating various cultural influences. When someone describes a place, person, or group as cosmopolitan, they are emphasizing the richness that arises from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and cultural practices. This could manifest in many scenarios, such as a city known for its diverse population, a community that embraces multiculturalism, or even personal experiences that reflect exposure to and appreciation for various cultures around the world. This understanding of "cosmopolitan" contrasts sharply with the other contexts provided. Local agricultural practices are typically rooted in regional traditions and may not involve global influences. Isolationism is the opposite of cosmopolitanism, as it denotes a preference for seclusion and limited exposure to diverse cultures. A monochromatic art style typically focuses on a single color or shade, which does not align with the concept of variety and diversity that "cosmopolitan" conveys. Therefore, the best understanding of the term is directly linked to the notion of a diverse and global culture

6. What does "vehement" imply about someone's emotions?

- A. Marked by indifference**
- B. Marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions**
- C. Characterized by a lack of enthusiasm**
- D. Exhibiting mild reactions**

The term "vehement" is used to describe feelings or expressions that are intense, passionate, or forceful. When someone is described as having a vehement reaction, it implies that their emotions or convictions are not only strong but are expressed with vigor and fervor. This could manifest in the way they speak, their body language, or their overall demeanor, reflecting a significant level of investment in the matter at hand. In contrast, the other options suggest a range of emotions that lack depth or intensity. Indifference implies a lack of concern or interest, which is directly opposed to the passionate nature of being vehement. Similarly, a lack of enthusiasm or mild reactions indicate a subdued emotional response, further highlighting the difference between these terms and the strong connotation of "vehement." Overall, the definition of "vehement" aligns with extreme intensity in emotions or strong convictions, making it the correct choice.

7. What does it mean to engross oneself in an activity?

- A. To share attention with others
- B. To partially engage in a task
- C. To devote fully to the task**
- D. To avoid the task entirely

To engross oneself in an activity means to devote fully to the task, immersing oneself completely in what one is doing. When someone is engrossed in an activity, their focus and attention are fully dedicated to it, often to the extent that they may lose track of time or become oblivious to distractions around them. This level of engagement often leads to a deeper understanding or a greater enjoyment of the activity. The interpretation of being "engrossed" emphasizes a strong, singular focus that is not shared or divided among other tasks. In contrast, sharing attention with others, partially engaging, or avoiding the task entirely all imply a different level or quality of involvement that does not align with the definition of engrossing oneself.

8. To muster means to:

- A. Execute a plan
- B. Gather or bring together**
- C. Divide or separate
- D. Critique extensively

The term "muster" refers to the act of gathering or bringing together, particularly in the context of assembling people or troops, often for inspection or preparation for service. This meaning emphasizes the action of coming together for a specific purpose, which aligns perfectly with the correct answer. In various contexts, such as military or organizational scenarios, "muster" can involve collecting individuals to form a group, readying them for action, or convening them to review collective readiness. The understanding of "muster" in this way highlights the collaborative aspect of the term. The other options, while they describe different actions, do not capture the essence of "muster." They involve executing plans, dividing things, or critiquing, which take the focus away from the gathering concept that is central to the word "muster."

9. What does "contortion" describe?

- A. A perfectly straight posture
- B. A rigid structure
- C. A twisted and twisted shape or position**
- D. A uniform and smooth appearance

The term "contortion" specifically refers to a twisted or bent shape or position. It often conveys the idea of something being dramatically distorted or shaped in ways that may be unusual or extreme. This can apply to both physical forms, such as the body in contortionist performances, as well as concepts in art or writing that embody complexity and unconventionality. The other choices describe states or conditions that indicate straightness, rigidity, or uniformity, which directly contrast with what "contortion" suggests. Thus, the image that "contortion" invokes is one of flexibility and irregularity, solidifying why "twisted and bent" is the accurate interpretation.

10. To illuminate means to:

- A. Make darker and harder to see**
- B. Make lighter or brighter**
- C. To confuse or obscure**
- D. To diminish the intensity of a light source**

To illuminate means to make something lighter or brighter, often by providing light in a physical sense or enhancing understanding in a figurative sense. When you illuminate a room, you are adding light to it, making it easier to see and perceive details. This concept can also extend beyond physical light; for example, when you illuminate a topic, you make it clearer and easier to understand, shedding light on complex ideas. The other choices present meanings that are contrary to illumination. For instance, making darker and harder to see or diminishing light intensity directly opposes the idea of lighting up or clarifying something.