

Sherpa Level 2 Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. To take two contradictory positions on an issue falls under which term?**
 - A. Dichotomy**
 - B. Diffuse**
 - C. Didactic**
 - D. Desperate**
- 2. Which term describes someone who is habitually lazy?**
 - A. Indolent**
 - B. Slothful**
 - C. Idle**
 - D. Complacent**
- 3. Which term signifies something that is deadly or destructive?**
 - A. Pernicious**
 - B. Benevolent**
 - C. Beneficial**
 - D. Innocuous**
- 4. What term describes the predominant influence of one country over others?**
 - A. Hegemony**
 - B. Dominion**
 - C. Authority**
 - D. Control**
- 5. What is a common synonym for 'charlatan'?**
 - A. Professional**
 - B. Expert**
 - C. Fraud**
 - D. Scholar**

- 6. Which of the following best describes someone who is 'torpid'?**
- A. Active and alert**
 - B. Indifferent and apathetic**
 - C. Dull and sluggish**
 - D. Curious and lively**
- 7. Which term is synonymous with 'Overthrowing traditional beliefs or practices'?**
- A. Iconoclast**
 - B. Radical**
 - C. Orthodox**
 - D. Conformist**
- 8. What does it mean to feign illness or incapacity in order to avoid duty or work?**
- A. Malinger**
 - B. Mitigate**
 - C. Obfuscate**
 - D. Obviate**
- 9. Which word describes a keen feeling of mental unease from disappointment?**
- A. Ecstasy**
 - B. Agony**
 - C. Chagrin**
 - D. Apprehension**
- 10. Which term means to be faithful to or endure?**
- A. Abide**
 - B. Abhor**
 - C. Acumen**
 - D. Alacrity**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. To take two contradictory positions on an issue falls under which term?

- A. Dichotomy**
- B. Diffuse**
- C. Didactic**
- D. Desperate**

The term that describes taking two contradictory positions on an issue is dichotomy. A dichotomy refers to a division or contrast between two opposing ideas, beliefs, or categorizations. In this context, it indicates a situation where one holds conflicting viewpoints about a particular subject, which creates an inherent contradiction. In logical discussions or debates, recognizing and understanding dichotomies is crucial, as they often reveal the complexity of issues and illustrate how different perspectives can coexist, even if they appear to be mutually exclusive at first glance. This understanding helps stimulate critical thinking and deeper analysis of the topics discussed. The other terms do not accurately capture this idea. For example, diffuse relates to spreading something over a wide area or making it less concentrated, didactic pertains to teaching or instructive processes, and desperate describes a state of being hopeless or having an urgent need. None of these concepts directly involves the notion of holding opposing viewpoints like dichotomy does.

2. Which term describes someone who is habitually lazy?

- A. Indolent**
- B. Slothful**
- C. Idle**
- D. Complacent**

The term "indolent" accurately describes someone who is habitually lazy. Derived from the Latin word 'indolens', which means 'free from pain', indolent specifically conveys a sense of an intentional reluctance to exert oneself or engage in activity. It's a more formal term often used in literature or psychology to characterize chronic laziness or inactivity, implying a deeper, almost ingrained tendency to avoid effort. While "slothful" also describes laziness, and can often be synonymous with indolent, it draws more on the metaphor of the sloth animal and may carry a slightly different connotation of sluggishness or laziness rather than the habitual aspect. "Idle" refers to being inactive and can suggest a temporary state rather than a consistent habitual behavior. It doesn't inherently carry the judgment of laziness that indolent does. "Complacent" refers to a state of self-satisfaction, especially when combined with unawareness of actual deficiencies and may not directly denote laziness. It suggests a contentment with one's situation without the nuances of habitual laziness. Thus, "indolent" is the most precise term for describing someone who is habitually lazy.

3. Which term signifies something that is deadly or destructive?

A. Pernicious

B. Benevolent

C. Beneficial

D. Innocuous

The term that signifies something that is deadly or destructive is "pernicious." This word is often used to describe effects or behaviors that, while sometimes subtle or unnoticed, can lead to significant harm or even fatal outcomes over time. The context in which "pernicious" is typically applied underscores its association with malevolence and danger, making it a fitting choice to describe something that is harmful or lethal. In contrast, "benevolent" refers to a kind and well-meaning nature, which is the opposite of being harmful. "Beneficial" denotes something that is helpful or advantageous, further indicating a positive impact rather than a destructive one. "Innocuous" describes something that is harmless or not likely to produce any adverse effects, standing in sharp contrast to the idea of being deadly or destructive.

4. What term describes the predominant influence of one country over others?

A. Hegemony

B. Dominion

C. Authority

D. Control

The term "hegemony" specifically refers to the dominance or leadership of one country or group over others, particularly in the context of political, economic, or military influence. It encapsulates not just direct control but also the ability to shape policies and influence the behavior of other nations through soft power, rather than coercion. This concept is often discussed in international relations to describe how powerful states can exert their influence on weaker states, establishing a hierarchy in which the hegemonic power leads and sets the agenda. The other terms, while related to power dynamics, do not capture the same broad and nuanced meaning as hegemony. "Dominion" often implies outright control or sovereignty, while "authority" and "control" can refer to various forms of power or influence, but they lack the specific contextual usage of "hegemony" in global politics. Thus, hegemony is the most accurate term for describing the predominant influence of one country over others.

5. What is a common synonym for 'charlatan'?

- A. Professional**
- B. Expert**
- C. Fraud**
- D. Scholar**

A common synonym for "charlatan" is "fraud" because both terms convey the idea of deception or trickery, typically for the purpose of gaining something of value, such as money or admiration. A charlatan is someone who pretends to have knowledge or skill in a particular area but lacks the actual expertise or qualifications, often to exploit others. Therefore, referring to a charlatan as a fraud underscores the dishonest nature of their actions and the false claims they make about their abilities or knowledge. In contrast, the other options refer to individuals with legitimate qualifications or expertise. A professional typically has acknowledged credentials in their field, an expert is someone who possesses specialized knowledge, and a scholar is a person engaged in academic study or research. None of these terms imply deceit or trickery, making them distinctly different from "charlatan" and "fraud."

6. Which of the following best describes someone who is 'torpid'?

- A. Active and alert**
- B. Indifferent and apathetic**
- C. Dull and sluggish**
- D. Curious and lively**

The term 'torpid' refers to a state of physical or mental inactivity, sluggishness, or lethargy. When describing someone as torpid, it implies that they lack energy or enthusiasm. This description aligns with the notion of being dull and sluggish, indicating a person who is not engaged or responsive, either physically or emotionally. The essence of being torpid encompasses a sense of lethargy, where an individual's faculties are diminished, resulting in a slower response to stimuli or a lack of initiative. In contrast, the other descriptions refer to more active or engaged states. Being active and alert suggests a high level of energy and responsiveness, which is the opposite of torpid. Indifferent and apathetic conveys a sense of lack of interest or care, which shares some similarities but does not necessarily imply sluggishness. Lastly, being curious and lively denotes enthusiasm and eagerness to explore, directly contradicting the idea of torpidity. Thus, the characterization of someone as dull and sluggish accurately captures the essence of what it means to be torpid.

7. Which term is synonymous with 'Overthrowing traditional beliefs or practices'?

- A. Iconoclast**
- B. Radical**
- C. Orthodox**
- D. Conformist**

The term that means 'overthrowing traditional beliefs or practices' is iconoclast. An iconoclast is someone who challenges or rejects established customs, beliefs, or institutions. This term carries a connotation of revolutionary thought, often associated with breaking away from accepted norms. By definition, an iconoclast actively seeks to disrupt the status quo and encourage new perspectives or practices that challenge traditional views. On the other hand, the terms radical, orthodox, and conformist represent different concepts. Radical often implies a significant change or departure from the norm, but it doesn't necessarily focus on the rejection of tradition as an iconoclast does. Orthodox refers to adhering to traditional or established beliefs, making it the opposite of what an iconoclast represents. Conformist describes someone who adheres to accepted norms and practices, further contrasting with the idea of overturning established beliefs. Thus, iconoclast is the most fitting term for someone who seeks to dismantle traditional ideas or practices.

8. What does it mean to feign illness or incapacity in order to avoid duty or work?

- A. Malinger**
- B. Mitigate**
- C. Obfuscate**
- D. Obviate**

Feigning illness or incapacity to avoid duty or work is referred to as malingering. This term specifically describes a situation where an individual intentionally simulates or exaggerates health issues, whether physical or mental, to escape responsibilities or obligations, particularly in a work or military context. Malingering is often viewed negatively, as it involves deception and can undermine trust and integrity in professional environments. The other options encompass different concepts: mitigate refers to reducing the severity or seriousness of something, obfuscate means to make something unclear or difficult to understand, and obviate denotes the act of removing or preventing something. None of these terms capture the specific act of pretending to be ill to evade responsibilities. Hence, malingering is the most accurate choice in this context.

9. Which word describes a keen feeling of mental unease from disappointment?

A. Ecstasy

B. Agony

C. Chagrin

D. Apprehension

The term that accurately describes a keen feeling of mental unease stemming from disappointment is "chagrin." This word specifically refers to a feeling of vexation or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated. It captures the complex emotional response one experiences when expectations are not met, resulting in disappointment and a sense of discomfort or distress. In contrast, "ecstasy" conveys intense joy or delight, which does not align with feelings of unease or disappointment. "Agony" denotes extreme physical or mental suffering but lacks the nuance of disappointment that chagrin encapsulates. "Apprehension" implies a sense of dread or anxiety about what might happen in the future, rather than a reaction to past disappointments. Therefore, chagrin is the most fitting term for the specific feeling described in the question.

10. Which term means to be faithful to or endure?

A. Abide

B. Abhor

C. Acumen

D. Alacrity

The term that means to be faithful to or endure is "abide." This word conveys the idea of remaining steadfast or committed to something over time. When someone abides by a principle or a belief, they are true to it, demonstrating loyalty and perseverance. Additionally, "abide" can imply enduring hardships or challenges without giving up, suggesting resilience and commitment. In contrast, the other terms do not carry this meaning. "Abhor" refers to a strong dislike or hatred for something, "acumen" denotes sharpness of insight or perception, particularly in practical matters, and "alacrity" indicates a cheerful readiness or eagerness to do something. Each of these terms has its unique definition, which makes "abide" the only choice that aligns with the concepts of faithfulness and endurance.