



● Sentence Completion 15 *(high-intermediate level)*

**Directions:** Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

1. Unlike teams that emphasize unity and cooperation, teams that lack \_\_\_\_\_ tend to perform poorly.  
A. athletes  
B. originality  
C. separation  
D. cohesion  
E. referees
2. If national park employees \_\_\_\_\_ the hunting of endangered animals in their parks, some rare species might eventually become extinct.  
A. rescind  
B. permit  
C. prevent  
D. forbid  
E. reveal
3. Prior to the scientific revolution, during which many previously held notions were discovered to be incorrect, it was a commonly held \_\_\_\_\_ that Jupiter is a star.  
A. misconception  
B. creed  
C. faith  
D. fabrication  
E. prediction
4. While most members of the fraternity are usually very \_\_\_\_\_, others, unfortunately, can be rather \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. polite ... rude  
B. gracious ... vivacious  
C. courteous ... respectful  
D. lazy ... indolent  
E. upstanding ... honorable
5. Although many problems are \_\_\_\_\_, others are not so \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. simple ... easy  
B. difficult ... effortless  
C. lengthy ... short  
D. complex ... important  
E. frustrating ... soothing
6. Eleanor does not enjoy exercising. \_\_\_\_\_, she goes to the gym to stay healthy.  
A. Therefore  
B. Nevertheless  
C. Consequently  
D. Moreover  
E. As a result
7. Compliance with the school's curriculum is \_\_\_\_\_. For example, students must take at least two years of math.  
A. grammatical  
B. mandatory  
C. complicated  
D. creative  
E. elective
8. Information gathered from the new archeological excavation was \_\_\_\_\_; it brought a great deal of previously misunderstood ideas to light.  
A. illuminating  
B. ingenious  
C. misleading  
D. disastrous  
E. routine

## Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The word “unlike” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between teams that emphasize unity and those that perform poorly. (D) Cohesion and “unity” are very close in meaning. By emphasizing cohesion and unity, teams that rely on teamwork perform very well. If teams lack cohesion and unity, they will do poorly. The correct answer is (D).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. (A) Athletes and (E) referees are players and officials who participate in a sport, but they do not directly oppose the idea of unity and cohesion. (B) Originality has no effect on whether or not a team performs well, nor does it relate to unity. (C) Separation is the opposite of unity, but a keyword in the question is “lack.” If a team lacks separation, then it *has* unity. This answer choice is also incorrect.

2) **B**

The key words in this question are “hunting” and “extinct.” Hunting animals involves killing them. If too many animals of a certain species are killed, then the species will become endangered (very low in number). Hunting endangered species leads to extinction (all members of the species die out). If park employees (B) permit hunting, this means that they allow hunters to kill animals. This can lead directly to extinction. The correct answer is (B).

If employees (A) rescind, (C) prevent, or (D) forbid hunting, then they block hunting from ever happening. This will not lead to extinction. It does not make sense to say that they could (E) reveal hunting. Revealing hunting has no effect on extinction. These answer choices are incorrect.

3) **A**

The main clue in this question is “previously held notions were discovered to be incorrect.” This means that widely-held beliefs were actually (A) misconceptions. A “misconception” is an incorrect idea. If some notions were proven incorrect, then these notions were also misconceptions. The correct answer is (A).

The idea that Jupiter is a star is not a (B) creed or a (C) faith. These words have stronger meanings that usually imply deeply-held beliefs about the nature of the universe or religion, not about specific planets or stars. A (D) fabrication is another word for a “lie.” However, even though it is not true that Jupiter is a star, this notion was not an intentional lie. People were not trying to deceive one another by repeating the idea; they honestly thought it was true and did not know otherwise. A (E) prediction is a belief about what will happen in the future. However, there is nothing in this question that refers to the future. The question refers to beliefs before the scientific revolution, so this is not the best answer choice, either.

4) **A**

The word “while” can mean that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between some of the fraternity members and other members. (A) Polite and (A) rude are exact opposites. If some members are polite, then they are kind and mind their manners. If others are rude, then they are impolite and unkind. These characteristics are directly opposite to each other. The correct answer is (A).

(B) Gracious and (B) vivacious are not opposites; it is possible to be gracious (humble or polite) and vivacious (lively) at the same time. Similarly, one can be both (C) courteous and (C) respectful at the same time, since these two words are close in meaning, and so are (D) lazy and (D) indolent. (E) Upstanding and (E) honorable are also close in meaning. Since none of these answer choices involve opposites, they are incorrect.

5) **A**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between some problems and other problems. Since the word “not” is already in the question, the correct answer choices must actually be *similar* in meaning in order to set up an opposite relationship. (A) Simple and (A) easy are close in meaning. If some problems are simple and others are not easy, then they are opposites. The correct answer is (A).

(B) Difficult and “not so (B) effortless” are not opposites. If something is not effortless, then it is difficult. Similarly, (C) lengthy and not (C) short, (D) complex and not (D) important, and (E) frustrating and not (E) soothing fail to set up the opposite relationships we need. These answer choices are incorrect.

6) **B**

The question sets up an opposite relationship the fact that Eleanor dislikes exercising and the fact that she goes to the gym. This means that the correct answer choice will be a coordinating word or phrase that sets up an opposite relationship. (B) Nevertheless can be used to set up opposite relationships. The correct answer is (B).

(A) Therefore, (C) consequently, and (E) as a result all set up logical, cause-and-effect relationships, not opposite relationships. (D) Moreover introduces additional information to supplement something that has already been stated. This doesn't set up the opposite relationship we need either, so it is also incorrect.

7) **B**

The main clue in this question is “must.” Whenever you must do something, you have no other choice but to do it. It is not optional. This means that whatever you

must do is (B) mandatory. If a school says you must take at least two years of math, then complying with this aspect of the curriculum is mandatory. The correct answer is (B).

An (E) elective course is one that you choose to take. It is optional, not mandatory. A (A) grammatical course would involve a language like English or Spanish, but this does not relate to math. A math class might or might not be (C) complicated, but we cannot tell from the question, so we should ignore this answer choice. A (D) creative course probably involves some kind of art, not math. These are not the best answer choices.

8) **A**

The main clue in this question is “brought a great deal of previously misunderstood ideas to light.” This means that the archaeological dig was (A) illuminating. “Illuminating” literally means “bringing to light,” which can figuratively mean “to reveal” or “to make clear.” If the excavation brought new information to light, then the excavation was illuminating. The correct answer is (A).

(B) Ingenious is a positive adjective, but it doesn’t necessarily relate to the revelation of new information. The excavation was not (C) misleading, because it did not reveal false information. It was not (D) disastrous, because nothing went seriously wrong. It was not (E) routine, because it introduced brand new information. These answer choices are incorrect.