Antonyms 4  Level 12

Directions: Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

1. SACROSANCT  6. CONSPICUOUS
   A. consecrated       A. egregious
   B. profane          B. overwrought
   C. defamatory       C. antediluvian
   D. sectarian        D. indefensible
   E. sectarian        E. surreptitious

2. OSSIFY  7. SUPERFLUOUS
   A. rekindle         A. subterranean
   B. levitate         B. critical
   C. smolder          C. peripheral
   D. ease            D. immaterial
   E. fossilize        E. tangential

3. SCRUPULOUS  8. DESTITUTE
   A. persnickety      A. avaricious
   B. meticulous       B. stingy
   C. exacting         C. affluent
   D. mercenary        D. bereft
   E. remiss           E. ostentatious

4. AMITY  9. DILATORY
   A. comity           A. ambulatory
   B. enmity           B. fictive
   C. amicableness     C. accelerated
   D. forbearance      D. sanguinary
   E. malediction      E. lingering

5. PARAMOUNT  10. TRANSGRESSION
   A. trifling         A. righteousness
   B. predominant     B. sanctimoniousness
   C. considerable    C. contravention
   D. incarnadine     D. alibi
   E. tantamount      E. misdemeanor
Answers and Explanations

1) B
The word *sacrosanct* means extremely sacred. For example, the Kaaba is a sacrosanct site for Muslims, since it is considered the most important site for their religion. The opposite of sacrosanct is not religious or not sacred. Because *profane* means irreligious, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *consecrated* means sacred. This is practically synonymous with *sacrosanct*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *defamatory* means slanderous. This is not the opposite of *sacrosanct*.

(D) is incorrect because *sectarian* means pertaining to a particular religious faith. This is not the opposite of *sacrosanct*.

(E) is incorrect because *ramshackle* means likely to collapse. This is not the opposite of *sacrosanct*.

2) D
The word *ossify* means to harden or become rigid. If a society ossifies, it becomes more austere and rigid. The opposite of ossify is to become lax or less rigid. Because *ease* means to release from pressure or to lessen in severity, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *rekindle* means to cause to burn again. This is not the opposite of *ossify*.

(B) is incorrect because *levitate* means to rise in the air. This is not the opposite of *ossify*.

(C) is incorrect because *smolder* means to burn without flame. This is not the opposite of *ossify*.

(E) is incorrect because *fossilize* means to make rigidly antiquated. This is practically synonymous with *ossify*, not the opposite of it.

3) E
The word *scrupulous* means careful and precise. Someone who pays attention to the details in his or her work would be considered scrupulous. The opposite of scrupulous is careless. Because *remiss* means negligent or careless, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *persnickety* means extremely particular or fussy. This is not the opposite of *scrupulous*. 
(B) is incorrect because *meticulous* means extremely careful. This is practically synonymous with *scrupulous*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *exacting* means fussy or rigid in demands. This is not the opposite of *scrupulous*.

(D) is incorrect because *mercenary* means working merely for money. This is not the opposite of *scrupulous*, since someone who is mercenary could still be careful and precise in completing his or her task.

4) **B**

The word *amity* means friendship. One shares amity with friends and close acquaintances. The opposite of amity unfriendliness or hostility. Because *enmity* is strong dislike or hostility, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *comity* is mutual courtesy or civility. This is practically synonymous with *amity*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *amicableness* is friendliness. This is synonymous with *amity*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *forbearance* is patience. This is not the opposite of *amity*.

(E) is incorrect because a *malediction* is a curse. This is not the opposite of *amity*.

5) **A**

The word *paramount* means chief in importance. If a certain rule is of paramount importance, then it is a rule that absolutely must be followed. The opposite of paramount is unimportant. Because *trifling* means trivial or of very little importance, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *predominant* means having power over others. This is not the opposite of *paramount*.

(C) is incorrect because *considerable* means important or significant. This is synonymous with *paramount*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *incarnadine* means blood-red in color. This is not the opposite of *paramount*.

(E) is incorrect because *tantamount* means equivalent in force or import. This is not the opposite of *paramount*. 
6) E
The word *conspicuous* means easily seen or noticed. For example, a bright red stain on a white coat would be conspicuous. The opposite of conspicuous is not easily seen. Because *surreptitious* means done in secret or stealth, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *egregious* means noticeably bad. This is not the opposite of *conspicuous*.

(B) is incorrect because *overwrought* means overdone. This is not the opposite of *conspicuous*.

(C) is incorrect because *antediluvian* means prehistoric. This is not the opposite of *conspicuous*.

(D) is incorrect because *indefensible* means inexcusable. This is not the opposite of *conspicuous*.

7) B
The word *superfluous* means extra or unnecessary. Superfluous information includes any details that are not relevant to the matter at hand. The opposite of superfluous is important or necessary. Because *critical* means of utmost importance, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *subterranean* means underground. This is not the opposite of *superfluous*.

(C) is incorrect because *peripheral* means concerned with relatively minor aspects of the subject at hand. This is practically synonymous with *superfluous*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *immaterial* means unimportant or irrelevant. This is practically synonymous with *superfluous*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *tangential* means loosely related. This is not the opposite of *superfluous*.

8) C
The word *destitute* means impoverished. Someone who has no money is destitute. The opposite of destitute is rich. Because *affluent* means rich or wealthy, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *avaricious* means greedy. This is not the opposite of *destitute*, since being poor and being greedy are not synonymous.
(B) is incorrect because *stingy* means cheap or reluctant to give. This is not the opposite of *destitute*, since being poor and being cheap are not synonymous.

(D) is incorrect because *bereft* means poor or deprived. This is synonymous with *destitute*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *ostentatious* means showy. This is not the opposite of *destitute*, since one who is not poor is not necessarily showy or flashy.

9) **C**
The word *dilatory* means intended to delay or slow down. Both filibustering and procrastinating are dilatory acts. The opposite of dilatory is speeding up or intending to speed up. Because *accelerating* means causing faster activity or progress, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *ambulatory* means walking around. This is not the opposite of *dilatory*.

(B) is incorrect because *fictive* means imagined or false. This is not the opposite of *dilatory*.

(D) is incorrect because *sanguinary* means bloody. This is not the opposite of *dilatory*.

(E) is incorrect because *lingering* means staying in place longer than is expected. This is practically synonymous with *dilatory*, not the opposite of it.

10) **A**
The word *transgression* means a sin or violation. For example, if one commits a crime, he or she is committing a transgression. The opposite of transgression is not sinning or committing a violation. Because *righteousness* is virtuous or moral conduct, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *sanctimoniousness* is making a hypocritical show of piety or properness. This is not the opposite of *transgression*, because sanctimoniousness is not authentic morality.

(C) is incorrect because a *contravention* is a violation. This is synonymous with *transgression*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because an *alibi* is an excuse. This is not the opposite of *transgression*.
(E) is incorrect because a *misdemeanor* is a less serious violation than a felony. This is not the opposite of *transgression*, because a misdemeanor is still a violation, regardless of its severity.