

• Sentence Completion 2 Level 7

Directions: Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. Mr. Hawkins' philosophy course gets _____ quickly, even though the school has increased the enrollment limit twice already.
A. started
B. filled
C. vacated
D. completed
E. concluded
2. Under ordinary circumstances, the board would never _____ such behavior, but, since she was the CEO, her wrongdoing was casually overlooked.
A. administer
B. thwart
C. suspect
D. condone
E. reprimand
3. It took Miranda years of substance abuse counseling to finally achieve _____; she now leads a healthy life free of drugs and alcohol.
A. sobriety
B. assistance
C. dignity
D. addiction
E. depression
4. Although they have always done things _____ in the past, the twins felt it was crucial that they experience college _____, and foster a healthy sense of independence.
A. closely ... collectively
B. joyfully ... happily
C. deceptively ... quietly
D. individually ... independently
E. jointly ... separately
5. Most people consider torture to be _____ because it is an act of cruelty; however, some assert that it is _____ in deterring crimes.
A. offensive ... dangerous
B. amazing ... crucial
C. horrible ... mediocre
D. immoral ... useful
E. terrible ... unforgivable
6. Health insurance prevents routine medical visits from becoming too _____ for the average citizen; without insurance, seeing a doctor can be very expensive.
A. helpful
B. urgent
C. costly
D. valuable
E. advantageous
7. Josh lets procrastination get the best of him; he _____ completed his project the night before it was due, resulting in a sloppy presentation.
A. patiently
B. slowly
C. hastily
D. nervously
E. carefully
8. During marathons, _____ runners—those runners who are better and faster than the other competitors—are given special water stops and earlier start times.
A. sluggish
B. athletic
C. opulent
D. elite
E. wealthy

Answers and Explanations

1) B

The main clue in this question is the phrase “even though,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the fact that the maximum enrollment of Mr. Hawkins’ class has been raised twice and what the course gets to be “quickly.” This means that the school is always trying to let more students take Mr. Hawkins’ class, but the class still does not have enough open seats, so the class becomes full. *Filled* means full, so choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *started* means begun. The enrollment limit has no effect on when the class gets started. Only the school calendar affects when classes begin or end, and the number of students in a particular class does not affect the calendar.

(C) is incorrect because *vacated* means left unoccupied. This is the opposite of Mr. Hawkins’ philosophy course, since a vacated or empty course would not need to have an increased enrollment.

(D) is incorrect because *completed* means finished. The enrollment limit has no effect on when the class gets completed. Only the school calendar affects when classes begin or end, and the number of students in a particular class does not affect the calendar.

(E) is incorrect because *concluded* means ended. The enrollment limit has no effect on when the class gets concluded. Only the school calendar affects when classes begin or end, and the number of students in a particular class does not affect the calendar.

2) D

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship with the board’s usual reaction and the fact that the board “casually overlooked” the CEO’s behavior. The missing word describes something the board “would never” do under normal circumstances, and, since the one exception was made for the CEO, the board must usually not overlook such behavior. Thus, the missing word should mean overlook or allow. Because *condone* means to accept or allow, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *administer* means to dispense or apply. The prompt does not imply that the board “would never” apply such behavior. Moreover, this word does not work because administering is not the same as overlooking.

(B) is incorrect because *thwart* means to prevent someone from accomplishing something. This does not work because thwarting is not the same as overlooking. If anything, thwarting is the opposite of overlooking.

(C) is incorrect because *suspect* means to believe that someone is guilty of wrongdoing. This does not work because suspecting is not the same as overlooking. If anything, suspecting is the opposite of overlooking.

(E) is incorrect because *reprimand* means to punish. This does not work because reprimanding is not the same as overlooking. If anything, reprimanding is the opposite of overlooking.

3) A

The main clues in this question are “substance abuse counseling” and “healthy life free of drugs and alcohol.” Additionally, the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical or equal relationship between Miranda’s counseling and her new, drug-free life. People enter substance abuse counseling when they have a problem with drugs or alcohol, and the missing word describes the end result of this: a life free of drugs and alcohol. Because *sobriety* is the state of being sober and free of drugs or alcohol, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *assistance* is help. This does not work because assistance has no connection to “a life free from drugs and alcohol.”

(C) is incorrect because *dignity* is the state of being worthy of respect. This does not work because dignity has no connection to “a life free from drugs and alcohol.”

(D) is incorrect because *addiction* is the state of being dependent on a particular substance. This choice is incorrect because Miranda would not go to counseling to achieve addiction. She already had an addiction in the first place, and she went to counseling to recover from it.

(E) is incorrect because *depression* is the state of feeling severe sadness or dejection. This does not work because depression has no connection to “a life free from drugs and alcohol.”

4) E

The main clue in this question is the word “although,” which is used to separate clauses that provide opposite or negative information. This means that how the twins “have always done things” is the opposite of how they would like to “experience college.” The correct choice will provide a pair of opposites. *Jointly* means together, while *separately* means alone or apart. These are opposites, so choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Closely* means very near someone, while *collectively* means done as part of a group. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Joyfully* means done with happiness and joy, while *happily* means done in a happy manner. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Deceptively* means done secretly or misleadingly, while *quietly* means done in a not loud manner. These words have no clear relationship.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Individually* means done singly or separately, while *independently* means done alone or without outside help. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

5) D

The main clue in this question is the word “however,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between most people’s negative opinion of torture (those who consider it “an act of cruelty” would have a negative view of it) and some people’s positive opinion of it. *Immoral* means morally wrong, while *useful* means beneficial. These would set up an opposite relationship, since most would argue that torture is wrong, while others would say it is beneficial in deterring crimes. Therefore, choice (D) is correct

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Offensive* means causing displeasure, while *dangerous* means likely to cause harm. In context, this choice would imply that most find torture displeasing, while others find it harmful.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Amazing* means awe-inspiring, while *crucial* means extremely important. In context, this choice would imply that most find torture impressive, while others find it important.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Horrible* means extremely bad, while *mediocre* means average or neither good nor bad. In context, this choice would imply that most find torture awful, while others find it just okay. This relationship is not strong enough to work in context.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Terrible* means extremely bad, while *unforgivable* means so bad as to be inexcusable. In context, this choice would imply that most find torture awful, while others find it really awful.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “without insurance, seeing a doctor can be too expensive.” This means that insurance must reduce the cost of seeing a doctor. The missing word describes what “health insurance prevents medical visits from becoming,” so it should relate to being expensive. *Costly* means expensive, so (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *helpful* means beneficial. This has no relationship to being “expensive,” so it does not work in context.

(B) is incorrect because *urgent* means requiring immediate action or attention. This has no relationship to being “expensive,” so it does not work in context.

(D) is incorrect because *valuable* means extremely useful or important. This does not work because valuable is not the same as expensive. Something can be valuable in a non-monetary way.

(E) is incorrect because *advantageous* means beneficial. This has no relationship to being “expensive,” so it does not work in context.

7) C

The main clues in this question are “procrastination” and “the night before it was due.” This means that Josh put off working on the project until the last minute. When someone waits until the last minute to complete something, he or she must work quickly. Often, this results in “sloppy” work, because there is no time to pay attention to details. The missing word must likewise mean quickly. Because *hastily* means done with excessive speed or urgency, choice (C) is correct

(A) is incorrect because *patiently* means done in a way that shows an ability to tolerate delays or problems. This does not work because the prompt does not provide enough information to know whether Josh was patient or not. The prompt only implies that he procrastinated and had to work hurriedly, not patiently.

(B) is incorrect because *slowly* means done at a pace that is below average. If Josh waited until the last minute to do his project, he would not have enough time to work slowly. This word implies that Josh spent a lot of time on the project and that he paid lots of attention to every detail. He could not have done this at the last minute.

(D) is incorrect because *nervously* means done in a way that shows alarm or agitation. This does not work because the prompt does not provide enough information to know whether Josh was nervous or not. The prompt only implies that he procrastinated and had to work hurriedly, not nervously.

(E) is incorrect because *carefully* means done with caution and care. If Josh waited until the last minute to do his project, he would not have enough time to work carefully. This word implies that Josh spent a lot of time on the project and that he paid lots of attention to every detail. He could not have done this at the last minute.

8) D

The main clue in this question is the phrase “those runners who are better and faster,” a phrase that elaborates upon or explains the meaning of the missing word. Therefore, the missing word must mean better or faster. Because *elite* means representing the best, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sluggish* means slow-moving. This choice does not work because the missing word must describe “those runners who are better and faster,” not those runners who are slower.

(B) is incorrect because *athletic* means physically strong, fit, or active. This choice does not work because all marathon runners are athletic, so this word cannot be used to refer only to “those runners who are better and faster.”

(C) is incorrect because *opulent* means showily rich or luxurious. This choice does not work because being “better and faster” is not the same as being rich.

(E) is incorrect because *wealthy* means rich. This choice does not work because being “better and faster” is not the same as being rich.