



● Sentence Completion 17 *(low-advanced SAT level)*

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

1. T. S. Eliot inserted out-of-context quotations from dozens of texts throughout "The Waste Land," creating a remarkable _____ with a powerful message about man's relation to art.
 - A. dirge
 - B. pastiche
 - C. fabrication
 - D. stanza
 - E. salvo
2. The _____ general Benedict Arnold is one of the most famous traitors in American history.
 - A. quiescent
 - B. allegiant
 - C. scrupulous
 - D. waggish
 - E. perfidious
3. In contrast to the jaunty, almost _____ tone of his earlier symphony, the composer's new fugue was rather dark.
 - A. lachrymose
 - B. dense
 - C. opaque
 - D. ethereal
 - E. lascivious
4. Among the most popular attractions at the state fair each year is the dollhouse exhibit, which shows a _____ version of the state at various epochs in its history.
 - A. licentious
 - B. Lilliputian
 - C. limpid
 - D. listless
 - E. lithe
5. The best mediator is one who is not _____ or partial to any one party so that her ruling will be _____ one.
 - A. biased ... an equitable
 - B. predisposed ... a myopic
 - C. gracious ... a nonpartisan
 - D. lenient ... an equivocal
 - E. equable ... an acrimonious
6. Despite the _____ of the anti-war protesters outside the Democrat and Republican national conventions, both parties put forth pro-Vietnam platforms in 1968.
 - A. commendations
 - B. rejuvenations
 - C. exaltations
 - D. propitiations
 - E. remonstrations

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key words are found in the phrase “inserted out-of-context quotations from dozens of texts,” which had the effect of creating the missing word. Thus, the missing word is one that relates to the outcome of inserting small pieces of other texts together. Choice **(B)** provides a word similar in meaning, as a *pastiche* is a piece of writing made up of smaller pieces of other works.

(A) is incorrect because a *dirge* is a slow, funeral song, not something made up of lines of other texts.

(C) is incorrect because a *fabrication* is a made-up story or lie, not something made up of lines of other texts.

(C) is incorrect because a *stanza* is a division of a poem, not something made up of lines of other texts.

(E) is incorrect because a *salvo* is a military salute involving gunfire, not something made up of lines of other texts.

2) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key word is “traitor,” which the prompt makes it clear Arnold was. The missing word is an adjective describing Arnold, so the missing word must be one that means traitorous or disloyal. Choice **(E)** provides such a word, as *perfidious* means disloyal or treacherous.

(A) is incorrect because *quiescent* means dormant or inactive, and nothing in the prompt discusses Arnold’s level of inactivity.

(B) is incorrect because *allegiant* means extremely loyal, which is the opposite of the way a “traitor” would be described.

(C) is incorrect because *scrupulous* means conscientious, and nothing in the prompt implies Arnold was conscientious.

(D) is incorrect because *waggish* means mischievous. The prompt implies that Arnold was more than mischievous and was, in fact, a traitor. This answer choice is simply not extreme enough.

3) **D**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. The key word in this sentence is “jaunty,” as the missing

word, like “jaunty,” describes the tone of the composer’s earlier work, a tone that is contrasted with the darkness of his new piece. Thus, the missing word must be one that means jaunty or light. Choice **(D)** provides such a word: *ethereal* means light or heavenly.

(A) is incorrect because *lachrymose* means producing tears and would imply that the earlier symphony was the opposite of “jaunty.”

(B) is incorrect because *dense* means heavy and is, as such, a word that could possibly describe the composer’s “new fugue” but not “earlier symphony.”

(C) is incorrect because *opaque* means not transparent. A symphony cannot literally be described as transparent, so this answer choice does not logically make sense.

(E) is incorrect because *lascivious* means lewd, which is not an adjective that would necessarily describe a “jaunty” work of music.

4) **B**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key word is “dollhouse,” and the prompt makes it clear that the “dollhouse exhibit” shows a “version of the state” that the missing word describes. Since a dollhouse is a miniature house, the version of the state shown by the exhibit must likewise be miniature, meaning the missing word must be one that means miniature. Therefore, choice **(B)** is correct, as *Lilliputian* means extremely small.

(A) is incorrect because *licentious* means amoral. The prompt only implies that the version of the state showcased at the exhibit is small, not that it is sinful.

(C) is incorrect because *limpid* means transparent. Nothing in the prompt implies that the version of the state shown at the exhibit is transparent or easy to see through.

(D) is incorrect because *listless* means lacking in energy. The prompt only implies that the version of the state showcased at the exhibit is small, not that it lacks energy.

(E) is incorrect because *lith* means flexible. The prompt only implies that the version of the state showcased at the exhibit is small, not that it is flexible in any way.

5) **A**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using key words from the prompt. Here, each missing word actually revolves around the same key word. Both missing words’ key words are the phrase “not [...]

partial to any one party,” a phrase that describes the ideal mediator. The missing word is part of such a phrase itself, meaning that it must have a similar meaning to “partial.” The second missing word has a slightly different relationship to the key words, as it is the result of being impartial, meaning the second missing word must be one that means something such as fair or impartial. Choice **(A)** is the best choice, then, as *biased* means showing favor and *equitable* means fair or impartial.

(B) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Predisposed* means inclined toward something, and so could work for the first missing word, which must likewise mean partial. However, *myopic* means nearsighted, and nothing in the prompt implies that a good mediator would be near sighted.

(C) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Nonpartisan* means impartial and, as such could describe the type of ruling the “best mediators” would make but *gracious* means thankful, and nothing in the prompt implies that a mediator should be either grateful or ungrateful.

(D) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Lenient* means permissive, and *equivocal* means intentionally ambiguous. Neither word, thus, has anything to do with one’s partiality or bias.

(E) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Equable* means tranquil, and *acrimonious* means bitter in manner or words. Neither word, thus, has anything to do with one’s partiality or bias.

6) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. The key word here is “protesters,” and the missing word is something that describes what they did, though the prompt makes it clear that whatever the effort was, it was unsuccessful. The missing word must, therefore, be one that means something akin to protesting, as that is what protesters do. Thus, choice **(E)** is the right answer, as *remonstrations* are protestations or complaints.

(A) is incorrect because *commendations* are praises or things that express approval, and the “anti-war protesters” would be unlikely to praise “pro-Vietnam platforms.”

(B) is incorrect because *rejuvenations* are revivals or returns to health. Nothing in the prompt implies that the “protesters” were ever in poor health or needed to be revived.

(C) is incorrect because *exaltations* are praises, and the “anti-war protesters” would be unlikely to praise “pro-Vietnam platforms.”

(D) is incorrect because *propitiations* are appeasements, though nothing in the prompt implies that the protesters were appeased by either party, as the prompt instead implies that they were ignored.