Prefixes and Suffixes

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 36 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. What does the prefix “ir-” mean in “irresponsible”?
   (a) two **(b)** not
   (c) a person skilled in **(d)** between

2. What does the prefix “anti-” mean in “antisocial”?
   (a) between **(b)** many
   (c) to make or become **(d)** against

3. What does the suffix “-tion” mean in “education”?
   (a) too much **(b)** the act or process of
   (c) full of; having **(d)** under

4. What does the suffix “-ise” mean in “modernise”?
   (a) to make or become **(b)** many
   (c) a person skilled in **(d)** not

5. Which word has a suffix meaning “relating to”?
   (a) traditional **(b)** irregular **(c)** irresponsible **(d)** subway

6. Which word has a prefix meaning “under”?
   (a) subway **(b)** overcook **(c)** triangle **(d)** antisocial

7. Which word has a suffix meaning “the act or process of”?
   (a) creation **(b)** illogical **(c)** triangle **(d)** modernise

8. Which word has a prefix meaning “three”?
   (a) traditional **(b)** triangle **(c)** irresponsible **(d)** government

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “government”, “bicycle”.

10. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “development”, “underestimate”.

11. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “dangerous”, “courageous”.

12. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “illegal”, “illogical”.

13. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) over- + cook (b) ir- + regular

14. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) art + “-ist” (b) non- + fiction

15. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) inter- + national (b) sub- + marine

16. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) multi- + national (b) in- + active

Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Make the OPPOSITE of each word by adding a prefix: “legal”, “fiction”, “logical”, “kind”.

18. Write the root word and the suffix of each: “dangerous”, “modernise”, “education”, “development”. What does each suffix mean?

19. Write the prefix in each word and what it means: “irresponsible”, “multinational”, “submarine”, “irregular”.

20. Give the meaning of each and write one word that uses it: “over-”, “tri-”, “-ous”.

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(b) not**	irresponsible = ir- + responsible
2	**(d) against**	antisocial = anti- + social
3	**(b) the act or process of**	education = educate + “-tion”
4	**(a) to make or become**	modernise = modern + “-ise”
5	**(a) traditional**	traditional = tradition + “-al”
6	**(a) subway**	subway = sub- + way
7	**(a) creation**	creation = create + “-tion”
8	**(b) triangle**	triangle = tri- + angle
9	**government = govern + “-ment”; bicycle = bi- + cycle**	—
10	**development = develop + “-ment”; underestimate = under- + estimate**	—
11	**dangerous = danger + “-ous”; courageous = courage + “-ous”**	—
12	**illegal = il- + legal; illogical = il- + logical**	—
13	**(a) overcook (b) irregular**	over- means "too much"; ir- means "not".
14	**(a) artist (b) nonfiction**	-ist means "a person skilled in"; non- means "not".
15	**(a) international (b) submarine**	inter- means "between"; sub- means "under".
16	**(a) multinational (b) inactive**	multi- means "many"; in- means "not".
17	**illegal, nonfiction, illogical, unkind**	Prefixes that mean "not": un-, im-, dis-, il-, ir-, in-, non-, a-
18	**dangerous = danger + “-ous” (full of; having); modernise = modern + “-ise” (to make or become); education = educate + “-tion” (the act or process of); development = develop + “-ment” (the act or result of)**	—
19	**irresponsible: ir- (not); multinational: multi- (many); submarine: sub- (under); irregular: ir- (not)**	—
20	**over-: too much, e.g. overcook; tri-: three, e.g. triangle; -ous: full of; having, e.g. courageous**	Any correct word using the prefix or suffix.

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