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 “sub-” mean in “subway”?
   (a) over; too much **(b)** under
   (c) a belief or practice of **(d)** half

2. What does the suffix “-ist” mean in “artist”?
   (a) under **(b)** the state or realm of
   (c) a person skilled in **(d)** far

3. What does the prefix “pre-” mean in “prefix”?
   (a) a person skilled in **(b)** to make
   (c) against **(d)** before

4. What does the suffix “-dom” mean in “kingdom”?
   (a) relating to **(b)** without
   (c) the state or realm of **(d)** far

5. Which word has a suffix meaning “a belief or practice of”?
   (a) amoral **(b)** capitalism **(c)** supernatural **(d)** prefix

6. Which word has a prefix meaning “under”?
   (a) supernatural **(b)** illegal **(c)** submarine **(d)** overcook

7. Which word has a suffix meaning “the act or result of”?
   (a) illogical **(b)** superhuman **(c)** freedom **(d)** development

8. Which word has a prefix meaning “far”?
   (a) brotherhood **(b)** television **(c)** artist **(d)** courageous

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

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

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

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

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

13. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) il- + legal (b) courage + “-ous”

14. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) ir- + regular (b) ir- + responsible

15. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) under- + estimate (b) semi- + circle

16. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) co- + operate (b) solid + “-ify”

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

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

18. Write the root word and the suffix of each: “courageous”, “dangerous”, “realism”, “traditional”. What does each suffix mean?

19. Write the prefix in each word and what it means: “submarine”, “triangle”, “transnational”, “antisocial”.

20. Give the meaning of each and write one word that uses it: “ultra-”, “bi-”, “post-”.

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(b) under**	subway = sub- + way
2	**(c) a person skilled in**	artist = art + “-ist”
3	**(d) before**	prefix = pre- + fix
4	**(c) the state or realm of**	kingdom = king + “-dom”
5	**(b) capitalism**	capitalism = capital + “-ism”
6	**(c) submarine**	submarine = sub- + marine
7	**(d) development**	development = develop + “-ment”
8	**(b) television**	television = tele- + vision
9	**autobiography = auto- + biography; hyperactive = hyper- + active**	—
10	**supernatural = super- + natural; ultramarine = ultra- + marine**	—
11	**realism = real + “-ism”; postgraduate = post- + graduate**	—
12	**transnational = trans- + national; government = govern + “-ment”**	—
13	**(a) illegal (b) courageous**	il- means "not"; -ous means "full of; having".
14	**(a) irregular (b) irresponsible**	ir- means "not"; ir- means "not".
15	**(a) underestimate (b) semicircle**	under- means "too little"; semi- means "half".
16	**(a) cooperate (b) solidify**	co- means "together"; -ify means "to make".
17	**illogical, asymmetrical, irresponsible, nonfiction**	Prefixes that mean "not": un-, im-, dis-, il-, ir-, in-, non-, a-
18	**courageous = courage + “-ous” (full of; having); dangerous = danger + “-ous” (full of; having); realism = real + “-ism” (a belief or practice of); traditional = tradition + “-al” (relating to)**	—
19	**submarine: sub- (under); triangle: tri- (three); transnational: trans- (across); antisocial: anti- (against)**	—
20	**ultra-: beyond, e.g. ultramarine; bi-: two, e.g. bicycle; post-: after, e.g. postgraduate**	Any correct word using the prefix or suffix.

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