Synonyms and Antonyms

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 38 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. Choose the word closest in meaning to “vivid”.
(a) striking **(b)** faint **(c)** flamboyant **(d)** vigilant

2. Choose the word closest in meaning to “humid”.
(a) casual **(b)** damp **(c)** arid **(d)** gregarious

3. Choose the word closest in meaning to “venerate”.
(a) inoffensive **(b)** revere **(c)** despise **(d)** unruly

4. Choose the word closest in meaning to “whimsical”.
(a) sober **(b)** fanciful **(c)** hardy **(d)** reinforce

5. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “zealous”.
(a) indifferent **(b)** ardent **(c)** tough **(d)** averse

6. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “serene”.
(a) universal **(b)** calm **(c)** casual **(d)** turbulent

7. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “negligent”.
(a) tranquil **(b)** neglectful **(c)** attentive **(d)** lenient

8. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “ostentatious”.
(a) showy **(b)** suppress **(c)** abundant **(d)** modest

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

9. Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “sagacious”, “frivolous”.

10. Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “impeccable”, “indolent”.

11. Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “eloquent”, “tenacious”.

12. Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “nefarious”, “nonchalant”.

13. Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “perilous”, “abundant”.

14. Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “obstinate”, “trivial”.

15. Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) The school decided to ABOLISH homework on weekends. (b) He was RELUCTANT to leave his friends and move to a new city.

16. Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) Floppy disks have become OBSOLETE. (b) Priya was ANXIOUS before her board exam results.

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

17. For the word “placate”: (a) write what it means, (b) give one synonym and one antonym, (c) use it in a sentence of your own.

18. For the word “mitigate”: (a) write what it means, (b) give one synonym and one antonym, (c) use it in a sentence of your own.

19. Sort these six words into three pairs of OPPOSITES: “minute”, “discern”, “increase”, “mitigate”, “miss”, “immense”.

20. Sort these six words into three pairs of words with the SAME meaning: “hurried”, “hasty”, “perfect”, “impeccable”, “eloquent”, “expressive”.

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Answer key

Synonyms and Antonyms · AW-11E-SYN-2026-V1 · For parents — fold back or tear off before handing the sheet to your child.

Q	Answer	Working
1	**(a) striking**	Vivid: very bright, clear and full of detail. Synonyms: bright, clear, striking.
2	**(b) damp**	Humid: warm and wet in the air. Synonyms: muggy, sticky, damp.
3	**(b) revere**	Venerate: to respect someone or something very deeply. Synonyms: revere, honour, esteem.
4	**(b) fanciful**	Whimsical: playfully unusual and unexpected. Synonyms: playful, fanciful, quirky.
5	**(a) indifferent**	Zealous: full of strong enthusiasm for a cause. Opposites: apathetic, indifferent.
6	**(d) turbulent**	Serene: calm and peaceful. Opposites: agitated, turbulent.
7	**(c) attentive**	Negligent: not taking enough care. Opposites: careful, attentive.
8	**(d) modest**	Ostentatious: meant to impress people with wealth. Opposites: modest, understated.
9	**sagacious: wise (or shrewd, astute); frivolous: silly (or trivial, flippant)**	Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning.
10	**impeccable: flawless (or perfect, faultless); indolent: lazy (or idle, slothful)**	Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning.
11	**eloquent: articulate (or fluent, expressive); tenacious: persistent (or determined, dogged)**	Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning.
12	**nefarious: honourable (or virtuous); nonchalant: anxious (or concerned)**	Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning.
13	**perilous: safe (or secure); abundant: scarce (or sparse)**	Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning.
14	**obstinate: flexible (or yielding); trivial: important (or significant)**	Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning.
15	**(a) establish (or create) (b) eager (or willing)**	The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word.
16	**(a) current (or modern) (b) calm (or relaxed)**	The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word.
17	**(a) To make someone less angry. (b) Synonym: pacify (or calm, appease); antonym: provoke (or enrage). (c) Sample: The manager offered a refund to placate the customer.**	Any sentence that uses the word correctly.
18	**(a) To make something less harmful or serious. (b) Synonym: reduce (or lessen, soften); antonym: intensify (or**	Any sentence that uses the word correctly.

Q	Answer	Working
	increase). (c) Sample: Planting trees can mitigate the effects of heat waves.	
19	**mitigate – increase; discern – miss; immense – minute**	—
20	**impeccable – perfect; hasty – hurried; eloquent – expressive**	—