Words in Context

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. In the sentence “She gave a vivid description of the festival in Kolkata.”, the word “vivid” means:
   (a) done too quickly, without enough thought
   (b) very careful that everything is correct and clean
   (c) calm and peaceful
   (d) very bright, clear and full of detail

2. In the sentence “The jeweller confirmed that the pearl was genuine.”, the word “genuine” means:
   (a) refusing to obey or co-operate
   (b) speaking or writing well and persuasively
   (c) real; not fake
   (d) existing in large amounts; more than enough

3. In the sentence “The tenacious lawyer fought the case for ten years.”, the word “tenacious” means:
   (a) of little importance
   (b) treating everyone fairly and equally
   (c) to end a law or system officially
   (d) refusing to give up

4. In the sentence “Mobile phones are now ubiquitous in Indian villages.”, the word “ubiquitous” means:
   (a) seeming to be everywhere
   (b) dark and making you feel sad
   (c) lasting only a very short time
   (d) having more than one possible meaning

5. In the sentence “The taciturn watchman only nodded when we passed.”, the word “taciturn” means:
   (a) very bright, clear and full of detail
   (b) not taking enough care
   (c) only of average quality; not very good
   (d) saying very little; habitually quiet

6. In the sentence “The lake looked serene in the early morning light.”, the word “serene” means:
   (a) treating everyone fairly and equally
   (b) unfriendly and ready to argue or fight
   (c) to make fun of someone unkindly
   (d) calm and peaceful

7. In the sentence “The film had a mediocre story but a great song.”, the word “mediocre” means:
   (a) only of average quality; not very good
   (b) meant to impress people with wealth
   (c) producing a great deal of work or results
   (d) very small in amount; not enough

8. In the sentence “The magnanimous winner praised her opponent.”, the word “magnanimous” means:
   (a) to say what will happen in the future
   (b) not taking enough care
   (c) to hide something carefully
   (d) generous and forgiving, especially towards a rival

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

9. Complete the sentence with the right word (hostile / prolific / placate): The manager offered a refund to ____ the customer.

10. Complete the sentence with the right word (laconic / ephemeral / deleterious): Smoking has ____ effects on health.

11. Complete the sentence with the right word (predict / fastidious / humid): The ____ editor checked every comma.

12. Complete the sentence with the right word (ephemeral / compassion / frivolous): The judge dismissed the ____ complaint.

13. Complete the sentence with the right word (eloquent / candour / pragmatic): I appreciated the ____ with which she admitted the mistake.

14. Complete the sentence with the right word (eloquent / innocuous / resilient): Coastal villages proved ____ after the cyclone.

15. Write the meaning of each word in your own words: “indolent”, “laconic”.

16. Write the meaning of each word in your own words: “optimistic”, “abundant”.

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

17. Fill in each blank with a word from the box. One word is not needed.
Box: vigilant, obstinate, trivial, reluctant, anxious
(1) The ____ mule would not cross the bridge.
(2) Do not waste the meeting on ____ complaints.
(3) Passengers were told to stay ____ about unattended bags.
(4) He was ____ to leave his friends and move to a new city.

18. Fill in each blank with a word from the box. One word is not needed.
Box: zealous, mitigate, cogent, jubilant, ridicule
(1) The ____ volunteers planted a thousand saplings.
(2) Planting trees can ____ the effects of heat waves.
(3) The ____ fans danced in the streets after the win.
(4) She made a ____ argument for later school hours.

19. Write one sentence of your own for each word, showing what it means: “novice”, “acrimonious”.

20. Write one sentence of your own for each word, showing what it means: “obsolete”, “feeble”.

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(d) very bright, clear and full of detail**	—
2	**(c) real; not fake**	—
3	**(d) refusing to give up**	—
4	**(a) seeming to be everywhere**	—
5	**(d) saying very little; habitually quiet**	—
6	**(d) calm and peaceful**	—
7	**(a) only of average quality; not very good**	—
8	**(d) generous and forgiving, especially towards a rival**	—
9	**placate**	Placate: to make someone less angry.
10	**deleterious**	Deleterious: causing harm or damage.
11	**fastidious**	Fastidious: very careful that everything is correct and clean.
12	**frivolous**	Frivolous: not serious; silly.
13	**candour**	Candour: the quality of being open and honest.
14	**resilient**	Resilient: able to recover quickly from difficulty.
15	**indolent: wanting to avoid work; laconic: using very few words**	Any wording with the same meaning.
16	**optimistic: expecting good things to happen; abundant: existing in large amounts; more than enough**	Any wording with the same meaning.
17	**(1) obstinate (2) trivial (3) vigilant (4) reluctant; not needed: anxious**	—
18	**(1) zealous (2) mitigate (3) jubilant (4) cogent; not needed: ridicule**	—
19	**Sample: As a novice, he started with the easiest trek. The acrimonious debate ended without any agreement.**	Any sentence that uses each word correctly and makes its meaning clear.
20	**Sample: Floppy disks have become obsolete. The old man spoke in a feeble voice.**	Any sentence that uses each word correctly and makes its meaning clear.