

9. The following passage is from OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency (2000), “Nuclear Energy in a Sustainable Development Perspective,” www.oecd-nea.org/sd.

Many instances of unsustainable resource use can be attributed not only to a lack of a well-functioning market, but to perverse institutional or legal incentives, such as a lack of property rights to resources, or (especially in underdeveloped nations) a lack of ready resource alternatives.

As used in the text, what does the word “perverse” most nearly mean?

- (A) Convoluted
 - (B) Corrupt
 - (C) Caused by selfishness
 - (D) Arising from obstinate persistence in an error
10. This passage is from Freeman Dyson, *Disturbing the Universe*, copyright © 1979 by Freeman J. Dyson.

If a scientist asserts that the stars at these immense distances have a decisive effect on the possibility of human existence, he will be suspected of being a believer in astrology. But it happens to be true that we could not have survived if the average distance between stars were only two million million miles instead of twenty.

As used in the text, what does the word “decisive” most nearly mean?

- (A) Resolute
 - (B) Important
 - (C) Extreme
 - (D) Conclusive
11. This passage is from Elizabeth Zubritsky, “NASA Finds Friction from Tides Could Help Distant Earths Survive, and Thrive,” NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

As anybody who has started a campfire by rubbing sticks knows, friction generates heat. Now, computer modeling by NASA scientists

shows that friction could be the key to survival for some distant Earth-sized planets traveling in dangerous orbits.

As used in the text, what does the word “dangerous” most nearly mean?

- (A) Likely to cause harm
- (B) Threat
- (C) Certain to be destroyed
- (D) Risky

12. This passage is from John L. O’Sullivan, “The Great Nation of Futurity.” It was originally published in 1839.

We have had patriots to defend our homes, our liberties, but no aspirants to crowns or thrones; nor have the American people ever suffered themselves to be led on by wicked ambition to depopulate the land, to spread desolation far and wide, that a human being might be placed on a seat of supremacy.

As used in the text, what does the word “suffered” most nearly mean?

- (A) Felt guilty
- (B) Endured pain
- (C) Objected to
- (D) Permitted

13. This poem, lines 1–6 are from “The Hurricane” by Philip Freneau, published in 1785.

Happy the man who, safe on shore,

Now trims, at home, his evening fire;

Unmov’d he hears the tempests roar,

That on the tufted groves expire:

Alas! On us they doubly fall.

Our feeble barque must bear them all.

As used in the text, what does the word “barque” most nearly mean?

- (A) Sailor
- (B) Sailing vessel
- (C) Storm
- (D) Pilot

14. This passage is from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Great Boer War*, published in 1900.

But it was different with the Dutch. That very rudeness of climate which had so impressed the Portuguese adventurer was the source of their success. Cold and poverty and storm are the nurses of the qualities which make for empire. It is the men from the bleak and barren lands who master the children of the light and the heat. And so the Dutchmen at the Cape prospered and grew stronger in that robust climate.

As used in the text, what does the word “nurses” most nearly mean?

- (A) Things that foster certain characteristics in people
- (B) Persons trained to look after the sick and injured
- (C) Persons who are skilled in conserving precious resources
- (D) Foods that are nutritious in a cold, inhospitable climate

15. This passage is from “Scientists Locate Deep Origins of Hawaiian Hotspots,” press release 09-232, December 3, 2009, National Science Foundation.

The location of the Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean had hampered past efforts to _____ its deep structure. Seismometer deployments limited to land sites on the islands did not provide sufficient coverage for high-resolution imaging, and Hawaii is also far from the most active circum-Pacific zones of earthquakes. Therefore, scientists turned to a more technologically challenging, marine approach by placing temporary instrumentation on the seafloor to record seismic waves.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word?

- (A) transform
- (B) exclude
- (C) resolve
- (D) counteract

16. This passage is from W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, originally published in 1903.

Being a problem is a strange experience,—peculiar even for one who has never been anything else, save perhaps in babyhood and in Europe. It is in the early days of rollicking boyhood that the revelation first bursts upon one, all in a day, as it were. I remember well when the shadow swept across me. I was a little thing, away up in the hills of New England, where the dark Housatonic winds between Hoosac and Taghkanic to the sea. In a wee wooden schoolhouse, something put it into the boys' and girls' heads to buy gorgeous visiting-cards—ten cents a package—and exchange. The exchange was merry, till one girl, a tall newcomer, refused my card,—refused it peremptorily, with a glance. Then it dawned upon me with a certain suddenness that I was different from the others; or like, mayhap, in heart and life and longing, but shut out from their world by a vast veil.

As used in the text, what does the word “revelation” most nearly mean?

- (A) The author's realization that despite their different skin color, whites and blacks are fundamentally the same
- (B) The author's realization that blacks are not part of the white people's world
- (C) The author's learning that not everyone is kind
- (D) The author's realization that he could beat his white classmates at examinations and in a footrace

17. This passage is from W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, originally published in 1903.

After the Egyptian and Indian, the Greek and Roman, the Teuton and Mongolian, the Negro is a sort of seventh son, born with a veil, and gifted with second-sight in this American world,—a world which yields him no true self-consciousness, but only lets him see himself through the revelation of the other world. It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.

As used in the text, what does the word “second-sight” most nearly mean?

- (A) The unique ability of Negroes to visualize future events
- (B) An awareness of the injustice of how the whites treat Negroes
- (C) The whites' view of the world
- (D) A mystical ability to perceive reality directly

18. This passage is from W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, originally published in 1903.

This, then is the _____ of his striving: to be a co-worker in the kingdom of culture, to escape both death and isolation, to husband and use his best powers and his latent genius.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical word or phrase?

- (A) estimate
- (B) estrangement
- (C) end
- (D) enhancement

19. This passage is from Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*, originally published in 1917.

When a water-clerk who possesses Ability in the abstract has also the advantage of having been brought up to the sea, he is worth to his employer a lot of money and some _____.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical word or phrase?

- (A) chastening
- (B) cautious encouragement
- (C) audacious criticism
- (D) humoring

20. This passage is from Gilbert Highet, *The Art of Teaching*, copyright © 1950 by Gilbert Highet.

His methods were, first, the modest declaration of his own ignorance—which imperceptibly flattered the other man and made him eager to explain to such an intelligent but naive inquirer; second, his adaptability—which showed him the side on which each man could be best approached; and, third, his unfailing good humor—which allowed him always to keep the conversation going and at crises, when the other lost his temper, to dominate it.

As used in the text, what does the word “naive” most nearly mean?

- (A) Innocent
- (B) Guileless
- (C) Uninformed
- (D) Credulous

21. This passage is from Charles A. Eastman (Ohiyesa), *The Indian Today: The Past and Future of The First American*, originally published in 1915.

It was not, then, wholly from ignorance or improvidence that he failed to establish permanent towns and to develop a material civilization. To the untutored sage, the concentration of population was the prolific mother of all evils, moral no less than physical. He argued that food is good, while surfeit kills; that love is good, but lust destroys; and not less dreaded than the pestilence following upon crowded and unsanitary dwellings was the loss of spiritual power inseparable from too close contact with one’s fellow men.

As used in the text, what does the phrase “untutored sage” most nearly mean?

- (A) A wise person who lacks formal education
- (B) A wise person who has not received religious instruction from tribal elders
- (C) A teacher pretending to be knowledgeable but who, in reality, has little knowledge
- (D) A foolish person

22. This passage is from Anne Fadiman, *Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*, copyright © 1998 by Anne Fadiman.

He replied, “Males. I was thinking about males. I viewed the world of literature—indeed, the entire world of artistic creation—as a world of males, and so did most writers. Any writer of fifty years ago who denies that is lying. Any male writer, I mean.”

I believe that although my father and E.B. White were not misogynists, they didn’t really see women, and their language reflected and reinforced that blind spot. Our invisibility was brought home to me fifteen years ago, after *Thunder Out of China*, a 1946 best-seller about China’s role in the Second World War, was reissued in paperback.

As used in the text, what does the phrase “see women” most nearly mean?

- (A) Regard women as human beings
- (B) Notice women
- (C) Take women seriously
- (D) Have women as friends

23. This passage is from Anne Fadiman, *Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*, copyright © 1998 by Anne Fadiman.

What I am saying here is very simple. Changing our language to make men and women equal has a _____. That doesn’t mean it shouldn’t

be done. High prices are attached to many things that are on the whole worth doing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- (A) calling
- (B) following
- (C) cost
- (D) market

24. This passage is from Henry Van Dyke, *The Americanism of Washington*. It was originally published in 1906.

They were really imprudent, and at heart willing to take all risks of poverty and death in a struggle whose cause was just though its issue was dubious. If it be rashness to commit honor and life and property to a great adventure for the general good, then these men were rash to the verge of reckless.

As used in the text, what does the word “issue” most nearly mean?

- (A) Offspring
- (B) Moral principle
- (C) Outcome
- (D) Controversial topic

25. This passage is from Henry Van Dyke, *The Americanism of Washington*. It was originally published in 1906.

He _____ profitable office and sure preferment under the crown, for hard work, uncertain pay, and certain peril in behalf of the colonies.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical word or phrase?

- (A) pursued
- (B) garnered
- (C) glorified

(D) forfeited

Answer Explanations

1. **(C)** The author is discussing new words that have been suggested to replace the word “his” used to refer to both males and females.
2. **(C)** Immediately before the word “rise” is used, the old man is described as grunting: “There he paused . . . grunt of disapproval,” suggesting that he intended to communicate something to the girl. Thus, in context, “rise” means “reaction.”
3. **(B)** In context, the word “tidy” means “orderly.” The author is saying that the historian can use hindsight to analyze events of the past in an orderly manner. An example of this is that they know the implications (such as “opening up the age of nuclear warfare”) of events, whereas the people involved in them could not know such implications. Thus, the historian, using hindsight, can fit everything into an orderly view of what happened.
4. **(B)** In context, the word “illumination” means “intellectual enlightenment.” The author is saying that to understand the past one, must put aside one’s knowledge of subsequent events and not consider any intellectual enlightenment that comes with considering these later events.
5. **(B)** The clause that follows the blank defines the correct word choice: “A society whose civilization is shaped by market transactions, . . .” Of the choices given, only (B), a commercial society, would be shaped by “market transactions.”
6. **(D)** Once again, the correct answer choice has, by definition, a characteristic that is unique in contrast to the other three answer choices. In this case, only agriculture includes domestic farm animals, such as poultry and swine.
7. **(C)** The clue to the correct answer here is in “I do not contest the right of the majority to command. . . .” The subordinate clause that

introduces the sentence begins with “when,” which means in this context “at the same time.” In other words, “At the same time I _____ to obey . . . , I do not contest the right. . . .” To contest something is to oppose it. Logically, then, to oppose obeying an unjust law would mean to refuse to obey it.

8. **(A)** The key point of the excerpt is that just because some resources are renewable does not mean they are infinite in amount. That distinction is significant, and the correct answer will provide a word that correctly labels the “powerful” elements that are working against renewable resources. Of the four choices, only “stresses” is logical in this context.
9. **(D)** In context, “perverse” means “arising from obstinate persistence in an error.” The author is saying that often unsustainable resource use is encouraged by policies that continue despite evidence that they do not work.
10. **(D)** The main argument in the passage is that the universe seems designed for life, so it is reasonable that the word “decisive” means “conclusive.” The author is saying that without the great distances between stars, life would be impossible.
11. **(A)** In context, “dangerous” means “likely to cause harm.” This can be inferred because the sentence in which the word “dangerous” is used is about “the key to survival for some . . . planets.” A dangerous orbit is one likely to cause harm to the planet in that orbit.
12. **(D)** From the context, it can be inferred that “suffered” means “permitted.” The author is pointing out that Americans never suffered (permitted or allowed) themselves to be motivated by acquiring crowns or thrones, the symbols of “a seat of supremacy.”
13. **(B)** A barque is a sailing vessel. The poem contrasts the man who is safe on shore during the hurricane and those people on whom the storm is falling. In the context of this scene, “Our feeble barque must bear them all” reveals that the barque, the boat, must bear the raging storm and must bear the people seeking survival in it.