

QUESTIONS ON GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Practice 7

REPHRASING – 1 point

1. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given.

1. You are not a bad lawyer Martin, but I don't think it is a very suitable job for you.

CUT

I just don't think you _____ a lawyer.

2. I don't have the foggiest idea whether he will be coming or not.

WHATSOEVER

I have _____ whether he will be coming or not.

3. He failed the exam as he didn't work as fast as the rest of the class.

PACE

His failure was blamed on his inability
_____ rest of the class.

4. Everyone is criticising the government for its poor unemployment record.

COME

The government _____ over its unemployment record.

5. He was always going to leave that house after the divorce was finalised.

BOUND

He _____ the house after the divorce.

6. I don't find it at all surprising that nobody came to the party.

WONDER

It's _____ nobody came to the party.

7. Please don't tell anyone else what I told you about Elizabeth.

KEEP

_____ yourself what I told you about Elizabeth.

8. Our boss is absolutely determined not to give us that pay rise.

INTENT

Our boss _____ the pay rise.

MULTIPLE MEANINGS – 1 point

2. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences.

1 _____

- We sat and talked by the _____ of the fire.

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- They set out at first _____ for the summit.
- These discoveries may throw new _____ on the origins of man.

Comentado [AB1]: *Throw/shed light on something.*

2 _____

- I need to _____ 5 pounds if I am to fit inside my suit.
- It's an awful thing to _____ someone dear to you.
- You might as well go for it - you've got nothing to _____ in any case.

3 _____

- His new job will _____ travelling all over the world.
- It was _____ of him not to invite her.
- The study involved 60 patients with a _____ age of 58.2 years.

Comentado [AB2]: *Mean + to inf: have the intention to: I didn't mean to hurt you*
Mean + ing: entail, involve: Arriving there at 10 means getting up very early.
 The other verbs whose meaning changes depending on whether they're followed by -ing or to-infinitive are: *Go on, stop, remember, forget, regret and try.*

4 _____

- She's a woman without fear, with a _____ of her own, who says what she thinks.
- He didn't _____ that other people thought him odd.
- If you want to carry on with what you were doing, please don't _____ me.

Comentado [AB3]: *A mean age of: average*

5 _____

- The _____ thing about him is that he never eats in the evening.
- She takes the _____ day off work.
- We've got a few _____ jobs to do this weekend.

Comentado [AB4]: *The odd day off work / the occasional day off work*

MULTIPLE CHOICE

3. For questions 1-6, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Sand

Much as I admire sand's miraculous ability to be transformed into useful objects like glass and concrete, I am not a great fan of it in its (1) _____ state. To me it is primarily a hostile barrier that stands between a seaside car park and the water itself. It blows in your face, (2) _____ in your sandwiches, and swallows vital objects like car keys and coins. When you are wet it (3) _____ to you like 'stucco', and cannot be (4) _____, even with a fireman's hose. But, and here's the strange thing, the moment you step onto a beach towel, climb into a car or walk across a recently vacuumed carpet, it pours off you. For days afterwards, you tip mysteriously undiminishing piles of it onto the floor every time you take off your shoes, and spray the vicinity with lots more when you (5) _____ your socks. Sand stays with you for longer than many contagious diseases. No, you can (6) _____ sand, as far as I am concerned.

1. A normal B natural C unrefined D unmixed

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- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 2. A enters | B seeps | C gets | D comes |
| 3. A adheres | B attracts | C fixes | D grips |
| 4. A shorn | B scraped | C shoved | D shifted |
| 5. A peel off | B roll away | C move off | D strip away |
| 6. A have | B keep | C hold | D store |

LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

4. Choose five of the following verbs expressing ways of looking. Explain what they mean exactly (connotations and nuances of meaning between them) and write a sentence which exemplifies their specific meaning. You will get 0.2 points for each verb successfully defined and exemplified.

GAZE – STARE – GLARE – PEEP – PEER – GLIMPSE – SQUINT – WINK – SCOWL

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

5. The following sentences include idiomatic expressions. Write down the exact word that complete each sentence in the right form. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

9. You can talk until you're _____ in the face, but he still won't listen.
10. That wooden bridge has been there for ages. It's incredible how it's been able to _____ the test of time.
11. She's extremely persistent. She's managed to keep her nose to the _____ all through the weekend.
12. The insurance industry is smacking its _____ at the prospect of more and more people wanting to insure their possessions.
13. I couldn't make head (n) or _____ of what she was saying.
14. I'll stick my _____ out and say that Bill is definitely the best candidate for the job.
15. We decided to celebrate by going out and painting the town _____.
16. She is a dark _____. I had no idea she had written a novel.
17. My grandmother has the same routine every day. She's very _____ in her ways.
18. It's a secret, so try not to let the _____ out of the bag.

SPOTTING MISTAKES – 1 point

6. Some of the following sentences include a mistake. Write OK for the sentences which are correct and write the sentence correctly for the ones which are wrong. The mistakes may involve changing or adding words or structures. The sentences which are correct cannot be modified. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

- a) The collection was found in 1926, having laid undiscovered for almost 16 centuries.
- b) Not since Kubrick's 2001 has a director made such an intellectually challenging sci-fi movie.
- c) The government's proposals are unrealistic, as those are of the opposition.
- d) The doorman at the entrance demanded being shown proof of my age.
- e) Difficult although it may seem, it's not impossible.
- f) The two parties are on the verge to sign the contract.

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- g) It doesn't surprise me. I knew he'd say that! He's so predictable!
- h) The Management recommends that you keep safe your valuables by handing them in at Reception.
- i) It's raining so there are less children in the park than usual.
- j) The protesters did not expect there to be such a strong reaction.

COLLOCATIONS – 1 point

7. Underline the word which fits. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

- a) The company's plans to build a new factory in the area **produced/developed/raised/originated** a very strong reaction from the public.
- b) The plans for the new shelter were abandoned because a **right/due/suitable/valid** location could not be found.
- c) He is known to **order/run/control/handle** challenges at work with unique professionalism.
- d) Maria's boss told her that personal items such as photographs should be **covered/packed/kept/held** out of sight.
- e) There has been a dramatic **change/turn/switch/swing** in the public's attitude towards borrowing from banks.
- f) The witness said that he had two shots being **thrown/aimed/pulled/fired** before seeing two men running down the street.
- g) Ted went to the police and handed in the money he found in the street; honest people like him are a **scarcity/unavailability/rarity/shortage** nowadays.
- h) The board held a meeting to discuss the future **way/line/plan/direction** of the organisation.
- i) Vegetable fats, **though/yet/even/still** not as harmful as animal fats, can nevertheless result in gaining weight.
- j) If you take regular exercise, your body **practises/serves/functions/exercises** more efficiently.

ANSWER KEY

1. REPHRASING – 1 point

1. I just don't think you are **cut out to be** a lawyer.
2. I have **no idea whatsoever** whether he will be coming or not.
3. His failure was blamed on his inability **to keep pace with the** rest of the class.
4. The government **has come in for criticism** over its unemployment record.
5. He **was bound to leave** the house after the divorce.
6. It's **no wonder that** nobody came to the party.
7. **Please keep to** yourself what I told you about Elizabeth.
8. Our boss is **intent on not giving** the pay rise.

Comentado [AB5]: *To be cut out for something OR to be cut out to do something.*

Comentado [AB6]: *Catch up with vs. keep up with (phrasal verbs)*

Comentado [AB7]: Future expressions:
Bound to: something that will most certainly happen
Due to (always related to timetable): the train is due to at 4
About to + ing / on the brink of + -ing / on the verge of + ing

2. MULTIPLE MEANINGS – 1 point

- 1 Light
- 2 Lose
- 3 Mean
- 4 Mind
- 5 Odd

3. MULTIPLE CHOICE

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. A normal | B natural | C unrefined | D unmixed |
| 2. A enters | B seeps | C gets | D comes |
| 3. A adheres | B attracts | C fixes | D grips |
| 4. A shorn | B scraped | C shoved | D shifted |
| 5. A peel off | B roll away | C move off | D strip away |
| 6. A have | B keep | C hold | D store |

4. LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

(Remember that you should only define and exemplify 5 of the following)

Gaze: "look look at someone or something for a long time, either because they are attractive or interesting, or because you are thinking of something else" → *he sat for hours just gazing into space.*

Stare: "to look steadily at somebody/something for a long time" → *he lifted his head and stared at her.*

Glare: "to look at somebody/something in an angry way" → *he didn't shout; he just glared at me silently.*

Peep: "to look quickly and secretly at something, especially through a small opening" → *we caught her peeping through the keyhole.*

Peer: "to look closely or carefully at something, especially when you cannot see it clearly" → *We peered into the shadows.*

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Glimpse: "to see somebody/something for a moment, but not very clearly or not completely" → *he glimpsed a short white-haired figure heading for the back gate.*

Squint: "to look at something with your eyes partly shut in order to keep out bright light or to see better" → *the driver had to squint against the sun to see where he was going.*

Wink: "to quickly close and open one eye as a sign to someone, or to show something is a joke" → *he winked at her and she knew he was thinking the same thing that she was.*

Scowl: "to look at somebody/something in an angry or annoyed way" → *She scowled furiously at his back as he walked away.*

5. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

1. You can talk until you're **BLUE** in the face, but he still won't listen.
2. That wooden bridge has been there for ages. It's incredible how it's been able to **STAND** the test of time.
3. She's extremely persistent. She's managed to keep her nose to the **GRINDSTONE** all through the weekend.
4. The insurance industry is smacking its **LIPS** at the prospect of more and more people wanting to insure their possessions.
5. I couldn't make head (n) or **TAIL** of what she was saying.
6. I'll stick my **NECK** out and say that Bill is definitely the best candidate for the job.
7. We decided to celebrate by going out and painting the town **RED**.
8. She is a dark **HORSE**. I had no idea she had written a novel.
9. My grandmother has the same routine every day. She's very **SET** in her ways.
10. It's a secret, so try not to let the **CAT** out of the bag.

Comentado [Office8]: Very good expression.

Comentado [Office9]: Good expression: *to stand the test of time.*

Comentado [AB10]: *To grind; to pull up your socks*

Comentado [Office11]: "poner la mano en el fuego". Good expression.

6. SPOTTING MISTAKES – 1 point

- a) The collection was found in 1926, having **LAIN** undiscovered for almost 16 centuries.
- b) Not since Kubrick's 2001 has a director made such an intellectually challenging sci-fi movie. **OK**
- c) The government's proposals are unrealistic, as **ARE** those of the opposition.
- d) The doorman at the entrance demanded **TO BE** shown proof of my age.
- e) Difficult **THOUGH/AS** it may seem, it's not impossible.
- f) The two parties are on the verge **OF SIGNING** the contract.
- g) It doesn't surprise me. I knew he'd say that! He's so predictable! **OK**.
- h) The Management recommends that you keep your valuables **SAFE** by handing them in at Reception.
- i) It's raining so there are **FEWER** children in the park than usual.
- j) The protesters did not expect there to be such a strong reaction. **OK**.

Comentado [AB12]: Lie - lied - lied: "not tell the truth".
Lay - laid - laid, as in *lay the table* or *a chicken lays eggs*.
Lie - lay - lain: "stay in horizontal position".
Lying vs. laying

Comentado [AB13]: *On the verge/brink of + -ing // about to + inf*

Comentado [AB14]: *Less (uncountable) / fewer (countable)*

7. COLLOCATIONS – 1 point

- a) The company's plans to build a new factory in the area **produced/developed/raised/originated** a very strong reaction from the public.

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- b) The plans for the new shelter were abandoned because a **right/duel/suitable/valid** location could not be found.
- c) He is known to **order/run/control/handle** challenges at work with unique professionalism.
- d) Maria's boss told her that personal items such as photographs should be **covered/packed/kept/held** out of sight.
- e) There has been a dramatic **change/turn/switch/swing** in the public's attitude towards borrowing from banks.
- f) The witness said that he had two shots being **thrown/aimed/pulled/fired** before seeing two men running down the street.
- g) Ted went to the police and handed in the money he found in the street; honest people like him are a **scarcity/unavailability/rarity/shortage** nowadays.
- h) The board held a meeting to discuss the future **way/line/plan/direction** of the organisation.
- i) Vegetable fats, **though/yet/even/still** not as harmful as animal fats, can nevertheless result in gaining weight.
- j) If you take regular exercise, your body **practises/serves/functions/exercises** more efficiently.