K-12

ISEE-Upper-Level
Independent School Entrance Exam Upper Level, or ISEE Upper Level

Questions And Answers PDF Format:

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Question: 1

He believed that in order to _____ the problem fully, he would need to understand all of its _____.

A. solve ...positions
B. comprehend...extreme
C. experience...thoughts
D. address...intricacies

Answer: D

Explanation:
Answer (a) is incorrect because it is not logically correct to speak of a problem's "positions." Answer (b) is incorrect because "all of its extreme" is not grammatically correct. Answer (c) is incorrect because it is not logically correct to speak of a problem's "thoughts." Answer (d) is the better answer.

Question: 2

The author's novel was_____ but she managed to develop numerous ____ fully and enjoyably by its end.

A. thought-provoking...storylines
B. brief„.characters
C. uninsightful...answers
D. surprising...plots

Answer: B

Explanation:
Answers (a) and (d) are incorrect because the conjunction "but" in the sentence suggests that the second half happened despite the first half: in this answer, it doesn't logically make sense to say that numerous storylines were developed despite the thought-provoking nature of the book, that numerous plots were developed despite the surprising nature of the book or that numerous chapters were developed despite the long-winded nature of the book. Answer (c) is incorrect because the second word, "answers," does not make sense in the context of the sentence. Answer (b) correctly links the two halves of the sentence: despite the brevity of the book the author was able to develop numerous characters.

Question: 3

The rumors were _____ and she welcomed the opportunity to them.

A. true ...repudiate
B. fabricated.. .correction
C. believable ...enjoy
D. odious...refute

Answer: D

Explanation:
Answer (a) is incorrect because one would not repudiate true rumors. Answer (b) is incorrect: the phrase "to correction them" is not grammatically correct. Answer (c) is grammatically correct but does not make as much logical sense as answer (d).

Question: 4

I was sorry to see her in that_____ she looked so

A. condition...despondent
B. situation...arbitrary
C. state ...demure
D. position...pensive

Answer: A

Explanation:
Answer (b) is incorrect because one does not "look" arbitrary or abstruse. Answers (c) and (d) are grammatically correct but answer (a) is the better answer because it explains why the speaker was sorry to see the object of the sentence: because she was despondent.

Question: 5

The disarray was_____ the office had to be closed for the day so all the furniture could be placed where it belonged, papers could be re-filed and a general cleaning done.

A. inconsequential
B. contemptible
C. severe
D. intermittent

Answer: C

Explanation:
Answer (a) is incorrect because it suggests the disarray was minor; the opposite of the meaning suggested by the rest of the sentence. Answers (b) and (d) are incorrect because they offer information about the disarray that is not relevant to the rest of the sentence.

Question: 6

He told the kids not to be so _____ when he was gone. He was afraid they would _____ the babysitter.

A. placid...frighten
B. boisterous...overwhelm
C. obedient...enraged
D. truculent...appease

Answer: B

Explanation:
Answers (a) and (c) are incorrect because placid and obedient children are easy to care for, and would not logically be expected to frighten or enrage caretakers. Similarly, answer (d) is incorrect because truculent children might be difficult to care for and would not logically be expected to appease themselves to caretakers.

Question: 7

It was an_____ house with its vaulted ceilings, obviously expensive furniture and extravagant art covering the walls.

A. off-kilter
B. obstreperous
C. odious
D. ostentatious

Answer: D

Explanation:
All the adjectives describing the house and the things in the house suggest a showy and grandiose home; ostentatious is the only answer choice that fits this meaning.

Question: 8

They chalked their meeting up to _____ it was the kind of lucky thing that could never have happened by design.

A. preparation
B. serendipity
C. extravagance
D. peculiarity

Answer: B

Explanation:
The word sought is one that describes something lucky that does not happen through design. Answer (b), serendipity, fits this meaning. Answer (a) is incorrect as it means the opposite of the word sought Answers (c) and (d) do not relate to the rest of the sentence.

Question: 9

He was modest in his ____ and did not _____ a promotion to higher levels of responsibility at work.

A. dreams ...refuse
B. failures ...question
C. habits ...necessitate
D. ambition...pursue

Answer: D

Explanation:
Answer (a) is incorrect because the second word suggests he didn't deny a promotion when offered him, while the word that best fits the meaning of the sentence will be one that indicates that he didn't seek a promotion. Answer (c) refers to habits not ambition. Answer (b) is wrong because it is not logically correct to say he was modest in his failures.

Question: 10

Column A	Column B
1 – 1/32	7/8 + 1/56

A. if the quantity in Column A is greater
B. if the quantity in Column B is greater
C. if the two quantities are equal
D. if the relationship cannot be determined from the information given

Answer: A

Explanation:

-- Although this can also be solved by finding the exact values of columns A and B, there is an easier way to determine the relative values. Column A is 1 – 1/32 or 31/32. 7/8 is equal to 28/32, so since 1/56 is less than 3/32, column A must be larger.

Question: 11

x does not = 0

Column A	Column B
$\|x\|/x$	1

A. if the quantity in Column A is greater
B. if the quantity in Column B is greater
C. if the two quantities are equal
D. if the relationship cannot be determined from the information given

Answer: D

Explanation:
Without knowing whether x is positive or negative, we cannot determine whether the expression in Column A is equal to 1 or -1.

Question: 12

$2x + 3y < 7$

Column A	Column B
$3x + 2y$	14

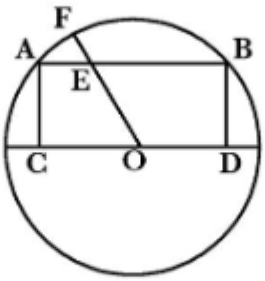
A. if the quantity in Column A is greater
B. if the quantity in Column B is greater
C. if the two quantities are equal
D. if the relationship cannot be determined from the information given

Answer: D

Explanation:
Since the values for x and y are never stated in absolute terms, we cannot tell which column is larger without more information.

Question: 13

In the figure below, a rectangle is inscribed within a circle such that one side coincides with the diameter. Radius OF intersects the rectangle at point E. This radius is drawn so that the angle ∠COF is 50°. What is the magnitude of angle ∠FEB?



a. 140°
b. 130°
c. 120°
d. 110°

Answer: B

Explanation:

Because the lines AB and CD are the sides of a rectangle, they must be parallel. Therefore, the angle ∠AEF is equal to the angle ∠COF and is 50°. As AB is a straight line segment, angles ∠AEF and ∠FEB must total 180°: that is, they are supplementary. Therefore, ∠FEB = 180° - 50° = 130°.

Question: 14

Which of the following statements is true?

A. A circle and its tangent have points in common
B. A circle and its tangent have one point in common
C. A tangent is a line that intersects a circle
D. A tangent is a line that passes through the center of a circle

Answer: B

Explanation:

A tangent is a line that touches, but does not intersect, a circle or arc. It will have a single point in common with the figure.

Question: 15

What is the value of y if $x = 7$ and $y = 3x^2 - 2x + 4$?

a. 137
b. 431
c. 11
d. 165

Answer: A

Explanation:

Substitute the value 7 for x in the equation. This yields $y = 3(7^2) - 2(7) + 4 = 3(49) - 14 + 4 = 137$.

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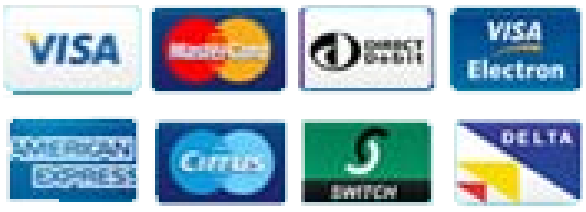
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