

Sample GRE Reading Comprehension Questions

Maps made by non-Native Americans to depict Native American land tenure, resources and population distributions appeared almost as early as Europeans' first encounters with Native Americans and took many form: missionaries' field sketches, explorers' drawings, and surveyors' maps, as well as maps rendered in connection with treaties involving land transfers. Most existing maps of Native American lands are reconstructions that are based largely on archaeology, oral reports, and evidence gathered from observers' accounts in letter, diaries, and official reports; accordingly, the accuracy of these maps is especially dependent on the mapmakers' own interpretive abilities.

Many existing maps also reflect the 150-year role of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in administering tribal lands. Though these maps incorporate some information gleaned directly from Native Americans, rarely has Native American cartography contributed to this official record, which has been compiled, surveyed, and authenticated by non-Native American tribes and their migrations and cultural features, as well as territoriality and contemporary trust lands, reflects the origins of the data, the mixed purposes for which the maps have been prepared, and changes both in United States government policy and in non-Native Americans' attitudes toward an understanding of Native Americans.

1. Which of the following best describes the content of the passage?
 - (A) A chronology of the development of different methods for mapping Native Americans
 - (B) A discussion of how the mapmaking techniques of Native Americans differed from those of Europeans
 - (C) An argument concerning the present-day uses to which historical maps of Native American lands are put
 - (D) An argument concerning the nature of information contained in maps of Native American lands
 - (E) A proposal for improving the accuracy of maps of Native American lands
2. The passage mentions each of the following as a factor affecting current maps of Native American lands EXCEPT
 - (A) United States government policy
 - (B) non-Native Americans' perspective on Native Americans
 - (C) origins of the information utilized to produce the maps
 - (D) changes in ways that tribal lands are used
 - (E) the reason for producing the maps
3. The passage suggests which of the following about most existing maps of Native American lands?
 - (A) They do not record the migrations of Native American tribes.
 - (B) They have been preserved primarily because of their connection with treaties involving land transfers.
 - (C) They tend to reflect archaeological evidence that has become outdated.

(D) They tend to be less accurate when they are based on oral reports than when they are based on written documents.

(E) They are not based primarily on the mapmakers' firsthand observations of Native American lands.

4. All of the following are examples of the type of evidence used in creating "Most existing maps" (line 7-8) EXCEPT

(A) a nineteenth-century government report on population distribution of a particular tribe

(B) taped conversations with people who lived on Native American tribal lands in the early twentieth century

(C) aerial photographs of geological features of lands inhabited by Native Americans

(D) findings from a recently excavated site once inhabited by a certain Native American people

(E) a journal kept by a non-Native American explorer who traveled in Native American territory in the early nineteenth century

Go to Answers.

Answers to Sample GRE Reading Comprehension Questions

1. This question asks you to identify the answer that most clearly describes the content of the passage as a whole. Choice D is the best answer. The passage is mainly concerned with arguing that the information contained in maps of Native American lands reflects certain important aspects of the map's original production. While certain mapping techniques are mentioned in the passage, the passage is not concerned with tracing the development of those techniques as indicated in choice A. choice B can be eliminated because the passage focuses on non-Native Americans' mapping techniques with Native Americans' techniques. Choice C is not correct because the argument in the passage concerns the origins of the information in certain historical maps, not any specific present-day uses of those maps. Choice E is incorrect because the passage does not offer any proposal to amend the accuracy of the maps being discussed.

2. To answer this question correctly you must locate certain pieces of information that are presented explicitly in the passage. Note that the correct answer will be the only answer choice that describes information that is not provided in the passage. The best answer is D. While it is possible that changes in tribal land usage could be reflected in historical maps of Native American lands, the passage does not specifically mention this as a factor affecting the maps in question. Choices A, B, C, and E are incorrect. Each of these describes a factor mentioned in the final sentence of the passage.

3. This question requires you to use the information provided in the passage to draw an inference about existing Native American land maps. Choice E is the best answer. The passage points out that most existing maps are based on second-hand information and that their accuracy is largely dependent on the map-makers' ability to interpret that information. Thus it can be inferred that most of these maps are not based on firsthand

observations by the mapmakers. Choice A is not correct because the passage mentions the “current cartographic record relating to Native American tribes and their migrations,” indicating that migrations are at least in part recorded on existing maps. Choice B is not correct: while the passage mentions that some maps were produced in connection with treaties involving land transfers, there is no indication in the passage that this connection was the primary impetus for preservation of the maps. Choice C is incorrect because the passages mentions that some maps are based on archaeological findings, but does not provide information that would support a claim that the archaeological evidence reflected in the maps has become outdated. While the statement in choice D could be true, the passage does not provide information to support such an inference.

4. To answer this question correctly you must consider the types of evidence that are listed in the passage and determine whether or not each answer choice would represent one of those types of evidence. Note that the correct answer will be the only choice that describes a type of evidence that does not represent one of the types mentioned in the passage. The best answer is C because aerial photographs of geological features do not provide an example of a type of evidence mentioned in the passage. Evidence in choice A is an example of an “official report” (line 10-11). Evidence in choice B is an example of an “oral report” (line 9). Evidence in choice D is an example of “archaeology” (line 9). Evidence in choice E is an example of a “diary” (line 10).

Sample GRE Sentence Completion Questions

1. This poetry is not -----; it is more likely to appeal to an international audience than is poetry with strictly regional themes.

- (A) familiar
- (B) democratic
- (C) technical
- (D) complex
- (E) provincial

2. Experienced employers recognize that business students who can ----- different points of view are ultimately more effective as managers than are the brilliant and original students who ----- dogmatically to their own formulations.

- (A) discredit.. revert
- (B) assimilate.. adhere
- (C) impose.. refer
- (D) disregard.. incline
- (E) advocate.. relate

3. Poe's ----- reviews of contemporary fiction, which often find great merit in otherwise ----- literary gems, must make us respect his critical judgment in addition to his well-known literary talent.

- (A) thorough.. completed
- (B) petulant.. unpopular
- (C) insightful.. unappreciated
- (D) enthusiastic.. acclaimed
- (E) harsh.. undeserving

4. The significance of the Magna Carta lies not in its——provisions, but in its broader impact: it made the king subject to the law.

- (A) specific
- (B) revolutionary
- (C) implicit
- (D) controversial
- (E) finite

5. The theory of cosmic evolution states that the universe, having begun in a state of simplicity and -----, has ----- into great variety.

- (A) equilibrium.. modulated
- (B) homogeneity.. differentiated
- (C) contrast.. metamorphosed
- (D) proportion.. accelerated
- (E) intelligibility.. developed

6. Not wishing to appear, ----- the junior member of the research group refrained from ----- any criticism of the senior members' plan for dividing up responsibility for the entire project.

- (A) reluctant.. evaluating
- (B) inquisitive.. offering
- (C) presumptuous.. venturing
- (D) censorious.. undercutting
- (E) moralistic.. observing

7. The Chinese, who began systematic astronomical and weather observations shortly after the ancient Egyptians, were assiduous record-keepers, and because of this, can claim humanity's longest continuous ----- of natural events.

- (A) defiance
- (B) documentation
- (C) maintenance
- (D) theory
- (E) domination

Answers to Sample GRE Sentence Completion Questions

1. This poetry is not -----; it is more likely to appeal to an international audience than is poetry with strictly regional themes.

- (A) familiar
- (B) democratic
- (C) technical
- (D) complex
- (E) provincial

Answer: (E)

2. Experienced employers recognize that business students who can ----- different points of view are ultimately more effective as managers than are the brilliant and original students who ----- dogmatically to their own formulations.

- (A) discredit.. revert
- (B) assimilate.. adhere
- (C) impose.. refer
- (D) disregard.. incline
- (E) advocate.. relate

Answer: (B)

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- (A) thorough.. completed
- (B) petulant.. unpopular
- (C) insightful.. unappreciated
- (D) enthusiastic.. acclaimed
- (E) harsh.. undeserving

Answer: (C)

4. The significance of the Magna Carta lies not in its——provisions but in its broader impact: it made the king subject to the law.

- (A) specific
- (B) revolutionary
- (C) implicit
- (D) controversial

(E) finite

Answer: (A)

5. The theory of cosmic evolution states that the universe, having begun in a state of simplicity and -----, has ----- into great variety.

- (A) equilibrium.. modulated
- (B) homogeneity.. differentiated
- (C) contrast.. metamorphosed
- (D) proportion.. accelerated
- (E) intelligibility.. developed

Answer: (B)

6. Not wishing to appear, ----- the junior member of the research group refrained from ----- any criticism of the senior members' plan for dividing up responsibility for the entire project.

- (A) reluctant.. evaluating
- (B) inquisitive.. offering
- (C) presumptuous.. venturing
- (D) censorious.. undercutting
- (E) moralistic.. observing

Answer: (C)

7. The Chinese, who began systematic astronomical and weather observations shortly after the ancient Egyptians, were assiduous record-keepers, and because of this, can claim humanity's longest continuous ----- of natural events.

- (A) defiance
- (B) documentation
- (C) maintenance
- (D) theory
- (E) domination

Answer: (B)

Sample GRE Analogy Questions

1. ADULT : CHILD ::

- (A) horse : mare
- (B) cat : kitten
- (C) swine : sow
- (D) human : animal
- (E) cow : herd

2. MANSION : RESIDENCE ::

- (A) limousine : automobile
- (B) chandelier : candle
- (C) tuxedo : wardrobe
- (D) diamond : rhinestone
- (E) yacht : harbor

3. ENVELOPE : LETTER ::

- (A) scarf : hat
- (B) box : bag
- (C) crate : produce
- (D) neck : head
- (E) blood : heart

4. CHOREOGRAPHY : DANCE ::

- (A) ceremony : sermon
- (B) agenda : advertisement
- (C) poetry : recitation
- (D) instrumentation : conductor
- (E) plot : story

5. OVERDOSE : PRESCRIPTION ::

- (A) deprivation : materialism
- (B) indiscretion : convention
- (C) affliction : sympathy
- (D) adventure : expedition
- (E) drug : medicine

6. EVAPORATE : VAPOR ::

- (A) petrify : stone
- (B) centrifuge : liquid
- (C) saturate : fluid
- (D) corrode : acid
- (E) incinerate : fire

7. SHARD : POTTERY ::

- (A) flint : stone

- (B) flange : wheel
- (C) cinder : coal
- (D) fragment : bone
- (E) tare : grain

Answers to Sample GRE Analogy Questions

1. ADULT : CHILD ::

- (A) horse : mare
- (B) cat : kitten
- (C) swine : sow
- (D) human : animal
- (E) cow : herd

Explanation:

An “adult” is what a “child” who grows up will be. A rationale for this analogy could be “X (an adult) is what a Y (child) who grows up will necessarily be”. A “cat” is what a “kitten” will be when it grows up.

Answer: B

2. MANSION : RESIDENCE ::

- (A) limousine : automobile
- (B) chandelier : candle
- (C) tuxedo : wardrobe
- (D) diamond : rhinestone
- (E) yacht : harbor

Explanation:

A “mansion” is a large and usually expensive “residence”. A rationale for this analogy could be “X” is a large, expensive member of class “Y”. A “limousine” is a special kind of “automobile,” specifically, a large and expensive one.

Answer: A

3. ENVELOPE : LETTER ::

- (A) scarf : hat
- (B) box : bag
- (C) crate : produce
- (D) neck : head
- (E) blood : heart

Explanation:

One purpose of an “envelope” is to contain and protect a “letter” when it is sent from one place to another. A rationale for this analogy could be “X is a container designed to protect objects such as Y’s during transport”. A “crate” is designed to protect things, “produce” among them, during transport.

Answer: C

4. CHOREOGRAPHY : DANCE ::

- (A) ceremony : sermon
- (B) agenda : advertisement
- (C) poetry : recitation
- (D) instrumentation : conductor
- (E) plot : story

Explanation:

“Choreography” (the art of composing dances) provides a structure that determines what will happen during a “dance”. A rationale for this analogy could be “X provides the organizing structure for creation of Y”. The “plot” provides structure for a “story,” a creative endeavor.

Answer: E

5. OVERDOSE : PRESCRIPTION ::

- (A) deprivation : materialism
- (B) indiscretion : convention
- (C) affliction : sympathy
- (D) adventure : expedition
- (E) drug : medicine

Explanation:

“Prescription” has several meanings, but its use with “overdose” suggests that here it means written instructions for medication. An “overdose” is a dosage of a medication that exceeds the amount called for by the “prescription.” A rationale for this analogy might be “X violates the rules set forth in a Y”. A “convention” is a rule, or set of rules, usually unwritten, governing behavior. An “indiscretion” is an action that violates such rules, much as an “overdose” violates the rules set forth in a “prescription”.

Answer: B

6. EVAPORATE : VAPOR ::

- (A) petrify : stone
- (B) centrifuge : liquid
- (C) saturate : fluid
- (D) corrode : acid
- (E) incinerate : fire

Explanation:

To “evaporate” means to change or be changed into a “vapor”. A rationale for this analogy could be “To X means to change into Y”. To “petrify” means to turn into “stone.”

Answer: A

7. SHARD : POTTERY ::

- (A) flint : stone
- (B) flange : wheel
- (C) cinder : coal
- (D) fragment : bone
- (E) tare : grain

Explanation:

A “shard” is a piece of “pottery” that has been broken off. A rationale for this analogy could be “An X is a piece of Y that has been broken off.” “Fragment” is one of several possible names for a piece broken off a “bone”.

Answer: D

Sample GRE Antonyms Questions

1. MOROSE:

- A. overawed
- B. agitated
- C. cherubic
- D. decisive
- E. cheerful

2. OFFHAND:

- A. accurate
- B. universal
- C. appropriate
- D. premeditated
- E. disputatious

3. WARMONGER:

- A. commentator
- B. liaison
- C. lobbyist
- D. emissary
- E. pacifist

4. PERSEVERE:

- A. put into
- B. send out
- C. take away
- D. give up
- E. bring forward

5. EXPIRE:

- A. evolve
- B. stabilize
- C. come to life
- D. grow to fruition
- E. bring to light

6. METAMORPHOSE:

- A. move ahead
- B. remain unaltered

- C. descend slowly
- D. examine in haste
- E. prepare in advance

7. PUNGENCY:

- A. boredom
- B. redundancy
- C. unresponsiveness
- D. blandness
- E. insignificance

8. DIVESTITURE:

- A. acquisition
- B. promotion
- C. subsidization
- D. consultation
- E. monopolization

9. DISPATCH:

- A. serenity
- B. leisureliness
- C. heedlessness
- D. irregularity
- E. aversion

Answers to Sample GRE Antonyms Questions

1. MOROSE:

- A. overawed
- B. agitated
- C. cherubic
- D. decisive
- E. cheerful

Explanation:

To be “morose” means to be gloomy or sullen. It is used to describe people’s dispositions. A “cheerful” person is not gloomy or sullen. The correct answer is E. to be “overawed” means to be overcome by superior power or authority. To be “agitated” means to be excited or disturbed. It does not necessarily imply good humor. A gloomy person may or may not be “agitated”. “Cherubic” is usually used to describe a person’s appearance as rosy, innocent, or childlike. A cherub is not likely to appear “morose”, but “cherubic” does not necessarily indicate a sunny disposition. A “decisive” person is able to make decisions and stick by them. A decisive person may or may not have a cheerful disposition.

2. OFFHAND:

- A. accurate

- B. universal
- C. appropriate
- D. premeditated
- E. disputatious

Explanation:

“Offhand” means done without preparation or much prior thought. It refers to a person’s actions or statements. D is the correct answer. “Premeditated” means thought about or prepared for ahead of time. To be “accurate” means to be correct or free from error. An “offhand” statement is not necessarily an inaccurate one. To be “universal” means to be applicable everywhere. It does not imply anything about prior thought or preparation. Something “offhand” is not by definition the opposite of “appropriate”. To be “disputatious” means to be likely to argue. This quality does not imply anything about either preparation or lack of preparation.

3. WARMONGER:

- A. commentator
- B. liaison
- C. lobbyist
- D. emissary
- E. pacifist

Explanation:

A “warmonger” is one who incites other to make war. E is the correct answer. A “pacifist” is one who actively oppose war. A “commentator” is one who reports, usually in an objective manner and without taking sides on issues. A “liaison” is a person who provides a link between people or groups. A “liaison” does not necessarily have particular views about war. A “lobbyist” is one who promotes a particular point of view in order to influence public officials. No single view necessarily characterizes every “lobbyist”. An “emissary” is a messenger or agent. No particular view necessarily characterizes an “emissary”.

4. PERSEVERE:

- A. put into
- B. send out
- C. take away
- D. give up
- E. bring forward

Explanation:

To “persevere” means to continue in an enterprise in spite of opposition or other difficulties. D is the correct answer. To “give up” can mean to cease to try to accomplish something. To “put into” could mean to invest, as energy, or, more generally, to insert. To “send out” means to emit. To “take away” means to subtract, to relieve someone of something, or to remove. To “bring forward” can mean to move up or to carry over. It does not suggest a lack of perseverance.

5. EXPIRE:

- A. evolve
- B. stabilize
- C. come to life
- D. grow to fruition
- E. bring to light

Explanation:

To “expire” means to die or to run out of time. C is the correct answer. To “come to life” (to begin living) is the opposite of to die (to end life). To “evolve” means to develop gradually. The process of evolution must involve life, but to “evolve” is not the opposite of to die. To “stabilize” means to make steady or to maintain without change. To remain in a stabilized condition may mean to remain alive, but it is not the opposite of dying (ending life). To “growth to fruition” means to develop to the point of being productive. It is necessary to be alive in order to “grow to fruition,” but the condition of being productive is not the opposite of dying. To “bring to light” means to reveal. It is done to another person or to a thing.

6. METAMORPHOSE:

- A. move ahead
- B. remain unaltered
- C. descend slowly
- D. examine in haste
- E. prepare in advance

Explanation:

To “metamorphose” means to change or be transformed into something else. B is the correct answer. To “remain unaltered” is the opposite of changing or being transformed into something else. Metamorphosis might be part of a process of moving ahead, but to “metamorphose” is not the opposite of moving ahead. To “descend slowly” means to come down without speed. Coming down is not the opposite of transformation. Examining in haste has no clear relationship to metamorphosis. Preparing in advance is a preliminary step, not the opposite of transforming.

7. PUNGENCY:

- A. boredom
- B. redundancy
- C. unresponsiveness
- D. blandness
- E. insignificance

Explanation:

In some contexts, “pungency” is a quality that is directly perceived. It implies sharpness, a stinging quality, and frequently applies to smells or tastes. D is the correct answer. “Blandness” means lacking flavor, not irritating, stimulating, sharp, or stinging. It is frequently used to describe tastes. Something that is the opposite of pungent might cause “boredom,” but “boredom” is a feeling rather than a quality. “Redundancy” refers to that which is extra, unnecessary, or repetitive. “Pungency” is a quality that might provoke a response, but “unresponsiveness” is a characteristic of the perceiver, not of the thing

perceived. “Insignificance” is a quality, but it does not necessarily imply a lack of sharpness. It is not a common quality of tastes or smells.

8. DIVESTITURE:

- A. acquisition
- B. promotion
- C. subsidization
- D. consultation
- E. monopolization

Explanation:

“Divestiture” is a taking away of something, presumably desirable, that was formerly possessed or owned. One can divest oneself, or one can be divested of something during “divestiture”. A is the correct answer. “Acquisition” means coming into possession of something desired. “Promotion” means the act of advancing or raising to a new, better position. One could be divested of a new position, but the idea of a position is not included in the definition of “divestiture” as it is in the definition of “promotion”. “Subsidization” means the act of giving money or aid in any of several possible situations. “Subsidization” refers to a continuing process of being granted something rather than to the point at which something is attained. “Consultation” means a conferring among people. It does not have to do with giving or taking. “Monopolization” implies having all of something, whereas “divestiture” does not imply amount or degree of divesting.

9. DISPATCH:

- A. serenity
- B. leisureliness
- C. heedlessness
- D. irregularity
- E. aversion

Explanation:

“Dispatch” in this question means quick efficiency. Although “dispatch” can also be used as a verb, “serenity” in the first choice is used only as a noun and not as a verb, so “dispatch” must also be used as a noun. “Leisureliness” means unhurried pace. It implies slowness and lack of quick efficiency. “Serenity” means calmness, and may suggest a state of mind or an appearance of calm. Though “dispatch” suggests activity, it is not incompatible with “serenity”. “Heedlessness” means lack of care in performance. It implies a lack of efficiency but implies nothing about the speed of operation. “Irregularity” can suggest dishonesty or a lack of continuity in action. It does not imply lack of either speed or efficiency. An “aversion” is a feeling of dislike or a desire to avoid, rather than a way of behaving.