

### 1) C. Obfuscate

Corporate leaders would try to **obfuscate** (conceal) their intentions in order to maintain a competitive advantage. **Occlude** makes a good runner-up, but it carries a meaning more along the lines of blocking off access to something. None of the other three choices is close: **Stipulate** means to demand something specific, **preclude** means to prevent or prohibit, and **abjure** means to avoid or reject.

### 2) E. Hubris

**Hubris** is excessive pride or self-confidence, which is often characterized by a refusal to consider any criticism, as expressed in the second sentence. If it weren't for that second sentence, any of the other answer choices would work: **miscalculations** can undermine a leader's plans, **ambivalence** is uncertainty or indecisiveness, **perfidy** is treachery, and **ineptitude** is incompetence.

### 3) B. Excoriated, F. Exoneration

The judge must have **excoriated** (severely criticized) Reed in order for him to be despondent, and that despondency likely led to the defendant's **exoneration** (acquittal), because the despondent Reed would be less effective in her role as prosecutor. If Reed were not described as despondent, you could make a case for choosing **exoneration** for the first blank and **conviction** for the second. Although **adjunction** (a court order) is a legal term, a judge doesn't adjudicate a person.

### 4) B. Gleaned, F. Impregnable

The report would have been **gleaned** (gathered) from internal document, not **coerced** (gotten by force) or **redacted** (put into a suitable literary form). If hackers easily bypassed the firewall, the security must not have been as **impregnable** (able to withstand attacks) as IT had reported. **Vulnerable** would imply that security was stronger than IT had thought. **Implacable** means unable to be satisfied or appeased.

### 5) B. nascent, D. precepts, I. prone

The second sentence references a democracy in early development, so it must be a **nascent** (emerging) democracy that would need to be built on certain **precepts** (principles or guidelines) in order to be strong. Otherwise, the government would be **prone** (disposed to) to evolving into a dictatorship.

For the first blank, you can rule out **well-established**, which is the opposite of nascent, and **representative**, which is just a type of democracy (direct or representative). For the second blank, both **criteria** and **precedents** would be good second choices, but because the second sentence mentions the right to vote and the rule of law, **precepts** is more accurate. For the third blank, you can rule out **dedicated**, because no democracy dedicates itself to becoming a dictatorship. You can rule out **resolute** (determined) for much the same reason.

**6) B. aberration, D. distortion, I. discomfiting**

The reflection in a curved mirror would be an *aberration* (an abnormality), not a *vacillation* (wavering) or *translucence* (semi-transparency), so the reflection in the mirror would be a *distortion* (misrepresentation). For the second blank, *divergence* (deviation or departure) would be a good second choice, but *distortion* is more precise. *Detraction* (incapacitating) is too strong a word, and *humorous* doesn't work, because the last sentence is structured in a way that the missing word must be nearly the opposite of *amusing*.

**7) C. As Pleck and Masciadrelli note, researchers have consistently shown that fathers spend much less time with their children than do mothers.**

You may be tempted to select the last sentence because it presents a summary of the data, but the main conclusion in this passage is that fathers spend considerably less time with their children than do mothers.

**8) D. Providing food, clothing, and housing for a child**

Evidence to support the claim that fathers spend considerably less time with their children than mothers do involves actual time spent with the child or choosing a child-care provider who will spend considerable time with the child. Supporting the child financially by providing food, clothing, and housing doesn't necessarily involve spending time with the child.

**9) A. Single-parent families, B. Two-parent families in which the fathers are unemployed**

The passage focuses on two-parent families in which mothers are unemployed and only mentions "the small subgroup of fathers who assume high degrees of responsibility." It doesn't provide data related to single-parent families or two-parent families in which the father stays home with the children.

**10) A. Engagement, accessibility, and the care of sick children, C. Engagement and availability at short notice**

Researchers did not include mention of financial support as a measure of parental responsibility, so you can rule out answer Choice (B). Engagement, accessibility, availability at short notice, and the care of sick children are all mentioned as measures of parental responsibility.

**11) C. Dizzying**

*Vertiginous* means spinning, whirling — movement that would cause someone to become dizzy. Because this passage describes the variety of literature as overwhelming, in both positive and negative ways, the variety of authors and countries is considered vertiginous. You can immediately rule out the first two options, which both mean something along the lines of believable. Although literature may be *enlightening* (informative) and *edifying* (intellectually enriching the variety of authors and countries would probably not be considered enlightening or edifying in this context.

**12) B. A French citizen writing in Chinese, C. Blending magical realism with Tibetan folklore**

Gao Xingjian is mentioned as a French citizen who continues to write in Chinese, while Tashi Dawa blends elements drawn from Tibetan folklore and international magical realism for his

writings in Chinese. This question is a little tricky, because cultural hybridity isn't mentioned until the second example of it is presented. Choice (A) is wrong because in this passage, cultural hybridity refers to the blending of cultures within a literary work, not the exchange of literary works between countries or cultures, although such exchanges no doubt promote cultural hybridity in literature.

**13) C. A character-impact compounds can be associated with a particular smell.**

The fact that a character-impact compound can be associated with a particular smell would help, not hinder, the ability to associate an odor with a specific volatile compound.

**14) B. Evaporating rapidly**

All of the answer choices are definitions of *volatile*, but because the passage discusses molecules being distributed through the air, evaporating rapidly is the most accurate meaning.

**15) D. The first serves as an intermediate conclusion that supports a further conclusion states in the second.**

The first bolded portion states the conclusion that heavy farm equipment compacts the soil, and the second bolded portion concludes that farmers must employ various strategies to reduce soil compaction. You can rule out Choice (A) because although the first states a conclusion, the second doesn't provide supporting evidence. Rule out Choice (B) because although the first states a problem, the second describes a possible solution to the problem, not the effects of that problem. Rule out Choice (C) because the second bolded portion doesn't contradict the first. And rule out Choice (E) because the first bolded portion doesn't ask a question, nor does the second bolded portion answer a question.

**16) E. Many states divert lottery dollars from their K-12 education programs to their general funds to make up for shortfalls.**

Although none of the answer choices provided completely undermines the argument for having a state lottery, Choice (E) states that at least some of the money collected from state lotteries presumably to be used for education is not being used to fund schools. Choice (A) is irrelevant, (B) and (C) support the argument, and (D) simply states that lottery funding represents a small portion of the total education budget in a state.

**17) A. Vivacious, C. ebullient**

Knowing that representative Hershel was exhausted, it would have taken some effort for him to remain *vivacious* (energetic) and *ebullient* (enthusiastic) while delivering his speech. You can easily rule out *lugubrious*, which means sad or gloomy, because he won and gave an electrifying speech. *Laconic*, which means terse or concise, would be a reasonable choice, but it has no close match in the answer selections. *Mendacious* and *disingenuous* do match, both meaning dishonest, but neither word is a good fit for the blank, which calls for a word whose meaning implies that Hershel managed to overcome his exhaustion.

**18. C. counterfeit, F. spurious**

The deeds described here would be fake — counterfeit, *spurious*. *Embezzled* and *pilfered* both mean stolen, but filing a stolen deed wouldn't allow the con artist to transfer ownership of a property to himself; he would need to use the pilfered deed to create a counterfeit. Likewise, using a photocopied or duplicate deed would do little good unless it were modified in some way to create a counterfeit.

**19) B. turpitude, E. depravity**

*Turpitude* and *depravity* both mean immorality. Because the passage focuses on indecent programming, these two choices are best. *Truculence* and *impertinence* would make good second choices, because they both imply disrespectful behavior that the media probably shouldn't promote; however, this sort of behavior doesn't rise to the level of indecency in programming. *Asperity*, which means harshness or sternness, has no choice comparable in meaning. Choice (D), infidelity, is tempting, but the answer choices don't contain a word similar in meaning.

**20) B. loquacious, C. voluble**

If the speaker exceeded her allotted time, she must have been *loquacious* or *voluble*, which both imply long-winded. She may have been *eloquent* and *articulate* (well-spoken) as well, but that wouldn't necessarily cause her to exceed her allotted speaking time. *Vivacious* means lively or energetic, and *voluminous* means large, neither of which has a comparable word in the list of answer choices and neither of which would necessarily cause the keynote speaker to run past her allotted time.