

College Admission

*Nelson-Denny
Nelson Denny Reading Test*

Questions And Answers PDF Format:

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Question: 1

The orange grove was under quarantine, because of a local virus.
Quarantine means:

- A. pressure
- B. demolition
- C. reconstruction
- D. isolation

Answer: D

Explanation:

Quarantine means isolation. Quadraginta is the original Latin root. Quarantine developed from the Latinate languages French, whose quarante means forty and Italian, with its cognate quaranta. It was a custom in the seventeenth century to isolate ships for 40 days to prevent diseases and pests from spreading. In fact, another definition of quarantine is a 40-day period.

Question: 2

The defendant was asked to remunerate the damage he caused during the robbery.
Remunerate means:

- A. reconstruct
- B. renounce
- C. pay for
- D. repeat

Answer: C

Explanation:

To remunerate means to pay for something, as in remunerating someone's services or paying someone. Synonyms include to pay, to compensate, or to recompense. In Latin, munus means gift. The verb for this noun is munerare, to give. Combined with re- for back, remunerare is to give back, and its past participle is remuneratus, the root of remunerate.

Question: 3

The welding machine scintillated into the dark shop.
Scintillated means:

- A. emitted gases
- B. emitted light
- C. emitted fumes
- D. emitted noise

Answer: B

Explanation:

To scintillate is to emit light—literally to sparkle. The Latin noun scintilla means spark. This word is also in the English vocabulary. The Latin verb "to sparkle" is scintillare; its past participle is scintillatus, the English word's root. The adjective "scintillating" is commonly used figuratively to describe a sparkling personality, conversation, or witticism.

Question: 4

The mission was surreptitious in nature.
Surreptitious means:

- A. transforming
- B. dangerous
- C. invasive
- D. secret

Answer: D

Explanation:

Surreptitious means secret. Other common synonyms are stealthy, covert, and clandestine. The root is Latin surrepticius, the past participle of surripere, to snatch secretly, a verb combined from sub- (under) and rapere (to seize).

Question: 5

The desert conditions were torrid for the Israeli division operating in the Sinai.
Torrid means:

- A. excessively hot
- B. aggravating
- C. lukewarm
- D. inhospitable

Answer: A

Explanation:

Torrid means excessively hot, scorching: or parched with heat, especially from the sun. The root is Latin torridus, from the verb torrere, to roast. In physical geography, the Torrid Zone is the

name for the central latitude zone of the earth, between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, where temperatures are hottest. It is also used figuratively for the heat of passion, as in "a torrid affair."

Question: 6

The adventurer left with a feeling of trepidation.
Trepidation means:

- A. uncertainty
- B. extreme depression
- C. ambivalence
- D. fearfulness

Answer: D

Explanation:

Trepidation means fearfulness. Synonyms include apprehension, anxiety, dread, alarm, fear, terror, and horror. It comes from the Latin verb *trepidare*, to tremble: the adjective *trepidus* means agitated.

Question: 7

The fish exhibited an unctuous appearance at the fish market.
Unctuous means:

- A. fresh
- B. dirty
- C. oily
- D. lucid

Answer: C

Explanation:

Unctuous means oily or fatty. It also means greasy and smooth in texture, or plastic, that is, malleable. A third meaning is figuratively "oily," as in someone whose manner is falsely earnest, ingratiating, and/or smug. This figurative meaning is often used by literary authors. The Latin root is *unguere*, to anoint. The noun "unction," used for the figurative meaning and in religion, has the same root.

Question: 8

The venal politician preyed upon his constituents during his time in office.
Venal means:

-
- A. barbaric
 - B. current
 - C. ambivalent
 - D. corrupt

Answer: D

Explanation:

Venal means corrupt, or corruptible, that is, capable of being bought. Its root is the Latin *venalis*, from *venum*, meaning sale. Other synonyms are bribable, purchasable, mercenary, or dirty.

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