PSIA

25 YEARS
Inspiring Student Achievement

Vocabulary

State Contest

Grades 5-8

I love words. I love words.
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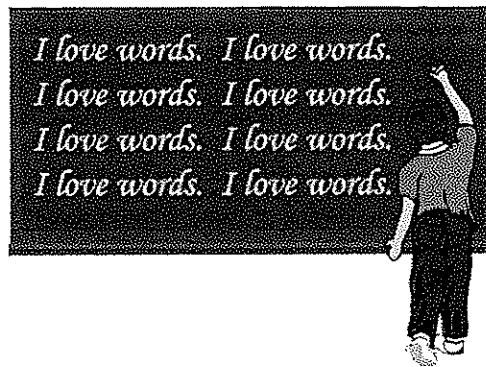
2022

FINAL SCORE: _____

(Please do not open test until the signal is given to begin.)

SENTENCE COMPLETION: In the sentences below, one or more words or groups of words have been omitted. For each question, select the answer choice which <u>best</u> fits into the meaning of the sentence.

1. William's mother gave him the _____ "Little Billy," one that he grew to hate since he reached 6-foot-2 as an adult.
   A. sobriquet
   B. lummox
   C. kismet
   D. youngblood

2. The _____ of protesters _____ the candidate for his stance on immigration.
   A. propinquity . . . befuddled
   B. brouhaha . . . mollified
   C. homogeneity . . . pandered to
   D. throng . . . chided

3. The list of _____ at Warren's door after he won the lottery included people from family and close friends to _____ acquaintances he had met in summer camp thirty years prior.
   A. lummoxes . . . jovial
   B. colleagues . . . tolerable
   C. supplicants . . . transient
   D. vaqueros . . . pastoral

4. The _____ effects of the sun's ultraviolet rays on skin are so well documented, doctors now advise patients to _____ suntanning.
   A. beneficial . . . embrace
   B. deleterious . . . eschew
   C. abominable . . . singe
   D. nascent . . . foster

5. Of the two speakers at Gettysburg National Cemetery, Edward Everett was the more _____ orator, speaking for two hours, compared to Abraham Lincoln's _____ of time—two minutes.
   A. hypocritical . . . upshot
   B. macabre . . . kernel
   C. loquacious . . . mote
   D. diminutive . . . dearth

6. The uncivilized behavior of the woman was captured on video and her _____ against the fast food worker over the speed of his service received universal _____ from the internet.
   A. assault . . . approval
   B. diatribe . . . condemnation
   C. clamor . . . hedonism
   D. reprisal . . . excoriation

7. During her senior year, Jeanette acted _____ when she spread rumors about her childhood bully, Danny, in an attempt to _____ his reputation.
   A. dexterously . . . lionize
   B. vindictively . . . sully
   C. petulantly . . . cultivate
   D. flamboyantly . . . abase

8. The prosecutor questioned the _____ of the defense's witness due to his _____ past that included two felonies and a prison sentence.
   A. mystique . . . sublime
   B. haughtiness . . . momentous
   C. probity . . . unscrupulous
   D. serendipity . . . unorthodox

9. The quality of the cafeteria food was _____ to the school principal; she worried more about school safety and the _____ experiences of the students first.
   A. tertiary . . . scholastic
   B. dispassionate . . . nondescript
   C. penultimate . . . comprehensive
   D. nonplussing . . . didactic

10. The _____ "Absorb what is useful;
Disregard that which is not" was famously
employed by Sherlock Holmes every time Dr.
Watson provided him with a _____ bit of
trivia.
   A. epistle . . . gratuitous
   B. hedonism . . . jaded
   C. upshot . . . pivotal
   D. maxim . . . tangential

11. The soldiers peeked through the tower window
at the _____ _____, but they failed to
notice the enemy troops _____ among the
trees.
   A. verdant . . . steppe . . . befuddled
   B. serene . . . rivulet . . . demobilized
   C. sylvan . . . vista . . . waylaid
   D. aloof . . . knaves . . . furloughed

12. The _____ diplomat could sense that the
negotiations were going poorly and that he
needed to offer his rival some _____ to make
the treaty more _____.
   A. elderly . . . territories . . . satisfactory
   B. sagacious . . . concessions . . . palatable
   C. brusque . . . ultimatums . . . economical
   D. obdurate . . . parameters . . . agreeable

ANALOGIES AND VERBAL REASONING: The
analogy questions that follow present a pair of
related words or groups of words. From the four
answer choices, select the pair that best illustrates
the relationship most similar to that of the original
pair.

13. BIBLIOPHILES : BOOKS ::
xenophiles : _____
   A. foreigners
   B. technology
   C. movies
   D. public speaking

14. GROTTO : SPELUNKER ::
   A. priest : church
   B. kitchen : chef
   C. space : astronomer
   D. school : teacher

15. PASTORAL : BUCOLIC ::
   A. commodious : confined
   B. wicked : pious
   C. average : mean
   D. urban : metropolitan

16. MALADROIT : SKILLFUL ::
   A. excoriate : praise
   B. mellifluous : harmonious
   C. herculean : facile
   D. terrestrial : aquatic

17. TEMPERATURE : THERMOMETER ::
   A. length : sundial
   B. electric voltage : ammeter
   C. area : hectare
   D. air pressure : barometer

18. CONNIVE : CABAL
   A. atone : repenters
   B. wine : vintners
   C. amnesty : convicts
   D. parch : cacti

19. DEARTH : OVERABUNDANCE
   A. lovable : likeable
   B. orthodox : exotic
   C. callous : acrimonious
   D. egregious : contrite

20. DYAD : TRIAD ::
   A. pyramid : triangle
   B. annual : biennial
   C. bicycle : tricycle
   D. teaspoon : tablespoon

21. SPEECH : BOMBAST ::
   A. spoon : fork
   B. rain : deluge
   C. chalkboard : whiteboard
   D. calculator : abacus

22. HIRSUTE : BARBER ::
   A. morose : undertaker
   B. hoarse : tea
   C. smart : tutor
   D. achy : masseuse

23. ANTEDILUVIAN : ANTIQUE ::
    A. impertinent : old man
    B. lilliputian : atom
    C. serene : ocean
    D. contrite : criminal

24. SURMISE : CONCLUDE ::
    A. teach : edify
    B. moan : yowl
    C. verify : refute
    D. abase : fete

READING COMPREHENSION: Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow. Questions may refer to what is stated or implied, or to any introductory information that may be included.
The passage is adapted from Moby Dick *by Herman Melville.*

The chief mate of the Pequod was Starbuck, a native of Nantucket, and a Quaker by descent. He was a long, **earnest** man, and though born on an icy coast, seemed well adapted to endure hot latitudes, his flesh being hard as twice-baked biscuit. Transported to the Indies, his live blood would not spoil like bottled ale. He must have been born in some time of general drought and **famine**, or upon one of those fast days for which his state is famous. Only some thirty arid summers had he seen; those summers had dried up all his physical **superfluousness**. But this, his thinness, so to speak, seemed no more the token of wasting anxieties and cares, than it seemed the indication of any bodily **blight**. It was merely the condensation of the man. He was by no means ill-looking; quite the contrary. His pure tight skin was an excellent fit; and closely wrapped up in it, and embalmed with inner health and strength, like a **revivified** Egyptian, this Starbuck seemed prepared to **endure** for long ages to come, and to endure always, as now; for be it Polar snow or torrid sun, like a patent **chronometer**, his interior vitality was warranted to do well in all climates. Looking into his eyes, you seemed to see there the yet lingering images of those thousand-fold perils he had calmly confronted through life. A **staid**, steadfast man, whose life for the most part was a telling **pantomime** of action, and not a tame chapter of sounds. Yet, for all his hardy sobriety and **fortitude**, there were certain qualities in him which at times affected, and in some cases seemed well nigh to overbalance all the rest. Uncommonly conscientious for a seaman, and endued with a deep natural reverence, the wild watery loneliness of his life did therefore strongly incline him to superstition; but to that sort of superstition, which in some organizations seems rather to spring, somehow, from intelligence than from **ignorance**. Outward portents and inward presentiments were his. And if at times these things bent the welded iron of his soul, much more did his far-away domestic memories of his young Cape wife and child, tend to bend him still more from the original ruggedness of his nature, and open him still further to those **latent** influences which, in some honest-hearted men, restrain the gush of dare-devil daring, so often **evinced** by others in the more perilous **vicissitudes** of the fishery. "I will have no man in my boat," said Starbuck, "who is not afraid of a whale." By this, he seemed to mean, not only that the most reliable and useful courage was that which arises from the fair estimation of the encountered peril, but that an utterly fearless man is a far more dangerous comrade than a coward.

25. According to the first paragraph, which word best describes Starbuck's personality?
    A. goofy
    B. jolly
    C. serious
    D. dour

26. How does the narrator describe Starbuck's physical characteristics?
    A. thin, but healthy
    B. thin, but in a sickly manner
    C. obese and ill-looking
    D. obese, but only slightly

27. The narrator compares Starbuck's ability to adjust to any weather conditions that the ship might encounter to what?
   A. a dead Egyptian
   B. an uneducated sailor
   C. a well-made watch
   D. a run-down neighborhood

28. How does Starbuck compare with other sailors?
   A. He is as amoral as the rest of sailors.
   B. He is a strong, principled man.
   C. He is cowardly and fears the slightest things.
   D. He is tyrannical and overbearing with his subordinates.

29. In the sentence "Outward portents and inward presentiments were his," what is the most likely meaning of *presentiments*?
   A. happenstance
   B. premonitions
   C. fortunes
   D. gifts

30. Which characteristic of sailors does Starbuck require of his men?
   A. apprehension
   B. dependability
   C. conceit
   D. ignominy

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State Contest – 2022

Contestant Answer Sheet

Contestant ID: _____   Grade Level: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Place the PRINTED CAPITAL letter of each answer choice (A, B, C, D or T or F for true/false questions) in the blank corresponding to the test item number. SCORING: +5 for each correct answer; –2 for each incorrect answer; no deduction for skipped or unanswered items. Visible erasures and mark-outs constitute a 2-point deduction ONLY if a correct answer is not written in the answer space.

1. _____   16. _____

2. _____   17. _____

3. _____   18. _____

4. _____   19. _____

5. _____   20. _____

6. _____   21. _____

7. _____   22. _____

8. _____   23. _____

9. _____   24. _____

10. _____   25. _____

11. _____   26. _____

12. _____   27. _____

13. _____   28. _____

14. _____   29. _____

15. _____   30. _____

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ANSWER KEY

REMINDERS: PRINTED CAPITAL letters only. SCORING: +5 for each correct answer; −2 for each incorrect answer; no deduction for skipped or unanswered items. Visible erasures and mark-outs constitute a 2-point deduction ONLY if a correct answer is not written in the answer space.

1. **A**		16. **C**	Antonyms	
2. **D**		17. **D**	Something and the instrument that measures it.	
3. **C**		18. **A**	*Action* taken by a *group*	
4. **B**		19. **B**	Antonyms	
5. **C**		20. **C**	Two to Three	
6. **B**		21. **B**	Something regular and then exaggerated/enlarged	
7. **B**		22. **D**	Adj. to describe someone and a profession that can "fix" that.	
8. **C**		23. **B**	Adj and something that requires this adj. by defn.	
9. **A**		24. **A**	Synonyms (verbs)	
10. **D**		25. **C**		
11. **C**		26. **A**		
12. **B**		27. **C**		
13. **A**	*People* that like *these.*	28. **B**		
14. **C**	*Area* and *explorer* of area.	29. **B**		
15. **D**	Synonyms (describe area)	30. **A**		